Daily Report

East Europe

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FBIS-EEU-95-140 *21 July 1995*

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Press Endangering Nation's Good Relations With U.S.

AU2007160095 Tirana RILINDJA in Albanian 20 Jul 95 p 3

[Commentary by "F.A.": "Who Is Frightened of a Stronger Albanian Army?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are no longer any journalists in Albania to publicly call for the faces of the U.S. or Soviet presidents to be used for Army target practice. Albania's increased military cooperation with NATO countries, and especially the presence of the troops of several NATO member states in Albania, have driven such ideas out of fashion. Such attitudes have evolved and now take the form of selective ideas about the countries with which Albania should develop military cooperation. The indifference with which the opposition press, and especially a section of the nonparty press, observes the progress of the Albanian Army is an element of a now familiar policy of discounting Albania's military capacity and therefore, according to this policy, dictating Albania's obedience especially toward her aggressive northern neighbor who is today the kingpin in the Balkan conflict. In recent months, several intemperate articles have been published against the U.S. presence in Albania on absurd pretexts that range from spools of stolen wire at Gjader to the gunshots of duck hunters in the lagoons.

These aggressive attitudes on the part of a section of the press toward military activities and the reform process in the Albanian Army have also been egged on by some circulation-boosting spectacles involving these newspapers in the Albanian courts, which in their turn have often fallen prey to the political pressure of the opposition or the vacuous din of these newspapers, and have tolerated the denigration of the image of the Albanian state and declared the innocence of journalists who have publicly slandered the reform processes in the Army.

One can now see that these aggressive attitudes toward the Albanian Army have nothing to do with officers' revolvers or "tank movements to the north" [reference to stories published by KOHA JONE in 1993-94]. These newspapers are focusing on the Albanian Army's cooperation with the armies of NATO members and especially their own despair that this might upset Milosevic.

In the last month alone, the Albanian press has carried almost daily articles without any declared source, openly affronting the dignity of Albanian servicemen and threatening the excellent relations that Albania enjoys with the countries of NATO and especially the United States. The reason why the United States is most subject to criticism is because it is the country most committed to the Balkan conflict and the bluntest in its attitude. This critical section of the press has also avoided reporting the joint exercises between the Albanian Army and the armies of NATO countries.

These views have also led to a debate among the newspapers. An article by the editor in chief of TRIBUNA DEMOKRATIKE strongly criticizes anti-American attitudes in Albania and explains this phenomenon with reference to the political influence of the past and the base offices that these journalists perform for the secret services of our northern neighbor.

KOHA JONE yesterday made a careful selection of quotations from LE MONDE about suspicions that the Americans are not distributing to all their partners the information obtained from their observation planes based at Gjader near Lezhe. The newspaper also carried on its front page a facsimile of LE MONDE from the previous day, clearly a photocopy of an issue that had not been sent to press yet, in which some friend of KOHA JONE had been extremely concerned to inform the Albanian reader. Only two days before, this newspaper had raised alarm about the U.S. presence in Albania, suggesting that it has a political as well as a military mission. This testifies to the panic that has seized an anti-American section of the opposition lest the success of the U.S.-Albanian cooperation influence the electorate in favor of the present government.

This is their own business, but if matters go on like this, the day will come when they will ask for Clinton's picture to be used for Army target practice, while they hang the picture of Slobodan Milosevic above the desks of Albanian officers.

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Commentary Views Partnerships With East Europe

AU2007162295 Sofia PARI in Bulgarian 17 Jul 95 p 3

[Commentary by Veselin Zhelev: "Dogan Effendi May Well Be Right"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmed Dogan may well prove to be right in his statement five years ago that the Bulgarian road to Europe passes along a Persian carpet. [as published]

The government has declared that the main priority of its foreign policy is our integration into West Europe, but for some unknown reason, so far all our important partnerships have emerged from the east.

Videnov's first important visitor was Chernomyrdin. This visit produced for our fatherland Top Energy [Russo-Bulgarian gas supply company], nuclear fuel, and a free gift of 100 tanks, 100 armored personnel carriers, and 24 combat helicopters.

The next leader to arrive was Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Our officials discussed with him how the pipes of the Caspian oil pipeline would pass through our territories.

During his visit to Athens, our prime minister held negotiations on how we can ship oil from the east to the west.

Once again, for the sake of Caspian oil, former dissident Zhelyu Zhelev courted Geydar Aliyev, former member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and one-time KGB boss, who currently earns his living as president of his native Azerbaijan.

With Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, we discussed the setting up of a free trade zone. He delivered an appeal to us that, before Europe opens its borders to our two countries, we should open our own borders to each other.

Our last visitor from the east was Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi. With him, the Bulgarian Government negotiated an almost fivefold increase in bilateral trade. It also discussed a combined transport corridor between Asia and Europe and a possible project to build a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Georgia to Europe.

How many things are appearing on the horizon from the east! Yet what arrives from the West? Schengen, the embargo, export quotas, and, from time to time, pats on the back.

Since we cannot go where we want, let us go where we can. Our diplomats should say this to their Western colleagues, and they should consider whether this refers to them or not.

Commentary Hails 'Breakthrough' Libyan Relations

AU2007153595 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Jul 95 p 7

[Commentary by Leonora Lekova: "Breakthrough in Bulgarian-Libyan Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a four-year break, Bulgaria and Libya have reestablished relations. According to Doncho Konakchiev, deputy prime minister and minister of regional development and construction, this was the main result of the 20-day session of the Bulgarian-Libyan joint commission that concluded its work in Tripoli on 12 July.

The assessments of the visit appeared instantly. Konakchiev returned with his hands full, the journalists reported, while government sources described our delegation's visit as a great breakthrough in the relations between the two countries, which in recent years had remained in complete stagnation.

The cooling in relations began in 1991 in response to our government's incorrect policy. As a result, the volume of trade between Bulgaria and Libya declined from $300 million in good years to $8 million in 1994. The issues of the Bulgarian oil concessions and settlement of the Libyan debt were left unsettled. To this very day, one is baffled by the ease with which we turned our back on the Libyans as economic partners, although we expected to receive millions from them.

We had to overcome this incorrect policy line and restore our partnership, Konakchiev told DUMA. We demonstrated a desire for dialogue and received an appropriate response, he added.

The results of the visit exceeded expectations. First, agreement was reached on terms for settling the Libyan debt to Bulgaria. This consists of $48 million owed to the state and $300 million in debts to Bulgarian companies. Moreover, the debt is not to be repaid in the form of oil deliveries, as hitherto, but by direct payments, which are to commence in August.

Second, the question of the Bulgarian oil concessions was discussed. A technical and economic report is to be prepared on their current state, on the basis of which the future of the concessions will be decided.

Important accords were also reached in the field of health care, construction, and trade. Bulgarian companies will construct water mains, housing, public buildings, and irrigation facilities in Libya. The number of Bulgarian medical staff will be increased from 800 at present to 1,500 by the end of this year. Preparations are under way to open a new sea route between the two

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countries. The text of the new trade agreement will be finalized within a month.

Our delegation's visit to Libya is true to the spirit of the government's overall foreign policy. It provides further proof that the recovery of Bulgaria's former markets—whether in Europe, Asia, or Africa—is completely feasible and has real positive consequences for our economy.

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Klaus Sees No Way Out of 'Disaster' in Bosnia

LD2007145495 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Czech Government's stance on the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina remains the same, and, according to Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus, it does not contain a solution through outside military intervention. The prime minister shares the helplessness of his foreign colleagues. He told Czech radio what his views on the issue are:

[Begin Klaus recording] What is going on there is, of course, a complete tragedy. As is common in the world, it is a complete failure on the part of politicians. I do not think it is a failure on the part of the ordinary people of any of the three warring parties. It is simply a failure of the politicians, with their ambitions for power, their incapability of reaching an agreement, their incessantly dogged and pigheaded idea that negotiations are pointless, that something can be achieved only through force.

Please note that none of the three sides wants to sit down to real negotiations. All three of them, hand in hand, want to continue this senseless war, for which thousands and thousands of ordinary innocent people are paying the price.

It is a tragedy. Unless the politicians from the three sides of the conflict sit down at the table and realize that to shoot people is not a solution, we will not be able to move forward.

I do not believe that one-sided outside intervention could solve this problem. This is not a simple war between two sides like that between Iraq and Kuwait, where the borders were clear, where it was clear which way the wind was blowing and who attacked who. This is a chaotic civil war, where any intervention by armies from the outside world would not be able to distinguish what belongs where, and, in my view, it would make things even worse than they are now. In any case, it could not be a lasting solution, a solution that could last beyond the presence of international troops there.

It is a complete disaster, and I do not see any way out. No one sees a way out, unfortunately. [end recording]

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Schenk Confirms U.S. Statement on Party Officials

LD2007134995 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Utterances made by representatives of the Hungarian coalition in Slovakia this week caused unease both at home and abroad. The chairmen of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Party [MKDH], Coexistence, and the Hungarian Civic Party [MOS]—Bela Bugar, Miklos Duray, and Laszlo Nagy, respectively—on their return from a week-long visit to the United States, informed journalists on 18 July about the results of their talks with U.S. senators, congressmen, officials of the Department of State, and the President's advisers and close aides. [passage omitted]

This morning, our reporter Marian Skotka asked Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Juraj Schenk for the latest information:

[Begin recording] [Skotka] Minister, according to our information, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was due to investigate the trustworthiness of the statement made by representatives of the Hungarian parties.

[Schenk] We have investigated all of the information published. We were most interested in the reactions of the American side. When I say the U.S. reactions, I mean the reactions of the official representatives from the White House and the Department of State.

I would like to say that the information we have received clearly confirms yesterday's statement of the Department of State, which was relayed to the Slovak media by the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava.

Apart from that, I would like to say that, according to our information, nobody at the level of the U.S. Department of State or the White House advisers has ever cast doubt on the political direction of the Slovak Republic. On the contrary, the United States has expressed support for the reform processes in Slovakia. It has been emphasized that the United States has never had and never will have any intention of interfering in our internal affairs, that the ways and methods of reforms are entirely our private matter, and, most important, that the U.S. Administration is not preparing any actions that would prevent [word indistinct] process or exclude the Slovak Republic from future integration into NATO.

I would also like to point out that, according to our information, the three Hungarian deputies we are talking about have forgotten to inform our public that the U.S. officials I have mentioned have denied any support for the concept of collective rights and territorial autonomy.

[Skotka] MKDH Chairman Bela Bugar has described the whole affair as a misunderstanding, has he not?

[Schenk] Considering both the kind of information we have and the unambiguous resentment in the U.S. statement, this is not the way to behave. It is not possible to play the problem down by claiming it was a misunderstanding. The statement of the Hungarian deputies is an act that has happened. They are fully responsible for it. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no other way but to describe this act as a serious violation of the state interest of the Slovak Republic. Seriously distorting the reality, the three Hungarian deputies, although to a different degree, have misused the supreme U.S. political institutions—that is, the President and the Department of State—for their own political advantage. In this way, they have cast a very bad light on both the Slovak and the U.S. Government in the eyes of the Slovak and international community.

I regard the affair as so serious that I think it should be dealt with by an appropriate committee of the Slovak National Council, by which I naturally mean the Mandate and Immunity Committee. [end recording]

Commentary by TASR

LD2007225395 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1630 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Slovak Republic press agency [TASR] today issued a commentary by its permanent correspondent in Washington, Otakar Korinek, on recent talks held in the United States by Hungarian coalition deputies to the Slovak Parliament. We are quoting from the commentary:

A statement by the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava on talks held by Bela Bugar, Laszlo Nagy, and Miklos Duray in the United States a week ago is unequivocal and clear. It dissociates the U.S. Government from any attempts to allege its intervention in Slovakia's internal affairs.

The U.S. reaction is logical. A failure to issue such a statement would have reminded us strikingly about 1968, when the Soviet Union made an internationalist declaration that the fate of socialism in Czechoslovakia was not merely that state's internal affair. The world has changed a lot since then, and it is [word indistinct] puzzling that the political representatives of more than half a million inhabitants in Slovakia have failed to notice that.

Whatever they are saying, they have not gained much with U.S. Government circles by taking this step. It is no secret, the TASR commentary goes on, that Hungary has a good lobby and contacts in the United States, with appropriate financial backing. Senator Christopher

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Dodd and Congressman Sam Gejdenson, with whom the Hungarian minority representatives held their talks, represent the state of Connecticut, where a strong Hungarian minority lives. Inasmuch as both of them are democrats, no single vote is negligible for them, given the current spread of forces on the U.S. political scene. The elections to the Congress will take place in a year's time, and it seems that it is possible to count in advance on Congressman Tom Lantos's support, says TASR Washington correspondent Otakar Korinek, among other things, in his commentary.

Kenya's Musyoka Departs After Cooperation Talks

EA2007183095 Nairobi KNA in English 1337 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, 20 Jul (KNA)—The minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, Mr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, who is currently visiting some eastern European countries, on Tuesday [18 July] held discussions with the Slovak prime minister, Mr. V. Meciar. The Slovakian prime minister and Mr. Musyoka discussed trade and investment issues and the renewal of agreements signed between Kenya and the former Republic of Czechoslovakia.

The Kenyan minister also held discussions with his Slovakian counterpart, Mr. J. Schenk, and handed the Slovakian foreign minister a goodwill message from His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi to President Michal Kovak of [the] Slovak Republic.

Later Mr. Musyoka left Slovakia for Budapest, Hungary, where he is expected to be joined by a high-ranking Kenyan trade delegation led by the acting chairman of the Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Kassim Owango.

Decline in Crime Rate Due to Penal Code Change

AU2007123895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Bratislava SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA in Slovak and Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 15 July both publish correspondents' reports on a news conference given by Police President Jozef Holdos in Bratislava on 14 July. The news conference was devoted to the development of crime in the first half of the year.

According to a 350-word report by Andrea Hinkova, published by SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA on page 4, "59,900 crimes were committed in Slovakia during the first six months of the year, 15,018 fewer than in the same period a year ago, of which the police cleared up 24,384"—that is, 40.7 percent. According to Hinkova, the police registered 42,092 property-related crimes and 5,704 "crimes of violence," including 57 murders, 671 robberies, and 100 rapes.

During the first six months of the year, 3,820 motor vehicles were stolen in Slovakia, of which 674 (17.6 percent) have been recovered. However, only 62 of the 1,456 cars that were stolen in Bratislava have been recovered, Hinkova says, citing police statistics.

Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 15 July on page 7 carries a 400-word report by Mikulas Sliacky entitled "Growing Number of Violent Crimes." The report explains that the reported decline in the number of crimes in the first half of the year "represents only an artificial effect, which is connected with the approved amendment to the Penal Code." Because the Penal Code amendment raised the limit of financial damage that must be incurred for an offense to be qualified as a property-related crime, Sliacky explains, "the number of offenses qualified as property-related crimes automatically declined by more than 16,000. These offenses are now being qualified merely as misdemeanors." Sliacky also mentions that the more than 5,700 "crimes of violence" committed in the first half of the year represented an increase against the first half of 1994, while the clear-up rate for crimes of violence declined from 84 percent in the first six months of 1994 to this year's 78 percent.

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Editorial Foresees Failure at Bucharest Talks

AU2007152895 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 20 Jul 95 p 5

[Editorial by Peter G. Feher: "Doomed to Failure"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After the wrangling with Romania over the basic treaty, it is inconceivable what Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs was hoping for when he decided—or others decided for him—that he would travel to Bucharest for two days of talks. This step of Hungarian diplomacy is strange partly because of the unbending Romanian stance, and partly because most European integration organizations have criticized Romania over the education law waiting to be introduced, which will negatively affect the national minorities. Precisely 24 hours before Kovacs's trip to Bucharest, the Romanian Constitutional Court rejected the protest lodged by senators and deputies of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania [UDMR] and a number of opposition parties, questioning the constitutionality of the draft bill, and gave the green light to President Iliescu to sign the text which can then come into force.

In practice, this means that the now well-known Recommendation 1201 of the Council of Europe on the rights of national minorities can hardly be included—or only in a thoroughly vague form—in the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty which is in preparation. It would be an outright political scandal to sign any kind of basic treaty without bearing the interests of Romania's Hungarians in mind and taking the UDMR's views into utmost consideration.

The Hungarian Government has fallen into its own trap by its representatives having announced several times that we cannot sign a "weaker" basic treaty with Romania than with Slovakia. It has to be added to all this that the role of the document signed with Slovakia is more than debatable because its contents are contrary to the Bratislava Government's program, and the interpretation of the rights of the Hungarian minority does not correspond to the understanding expressed verbally by the Budapest Government and truly professed by the opposition parties.

Even if Kovacs had had a little hope before his visit, it was quickly dispelled by his Romanian colleague Teodor Melescanu two days ago. In a radio interview, Melescanu answered the question whether it would be better for Romania's image if the education bill was not accepted in its current form. The highest foreign affairs leader cynically answered: We are not preparing for a beauty contest where we would have to comb our hair or dye it a color best liked by the jury.

In these circumstances, diplomatic customs suggest that a foreign minister preparing to travel should cancel his trip. At most, Hungarian diplomacy would not be so well combed as its makers would like to see it—anyway, the Romanians do not much care about this, either. However, after the talks to be concluded today, we can certainly say that Melescanu will be right, Romania is not preparing for a beauty contest, which can hardly mean anything else but the fact that Hungarian diplomacy's forced march for the basic treaty will come to a bitter end.

Official: UN Could Be Evacuated Through Country

AU2007135995 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 20 Jul 95 p 3

[Interview with Defense Ministry Spokesman Lajos Erdelyi by Attila Lenart; place and date not given: "Could UN Troops March Through Hungary?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One is hearing again that, if the UN Security Council so decides, Hungary would allow the peacekeepers to pass through our territory. To what extent are we prepared for this? Does our army have plans to do what is necessary, we asked Defense Ministry press spokesman Lajos Erdelyi.

[Erdelyi] As far as I know, we do not have such plans. If Hungary is asked to allow the Blue Helmets through this country and the government agrees, the army will obviously carry out the tasks that result from this.

[Lenart] Should we fear that, by agreeing to the evacuation of UN troops through Hungary, we might become embroiled in the armed conflict?

[Erdelyi] In my opinion, this cannot happen. Hungarian foreign policy has been very successful in its efforts to keep Hungary out of this conflict. Blue Helmets have already marched through Hungary, and this did not lead to any conflict.

[Lenart] What would be the legal basis for the evacuation of UN troops through Hungary, in view of the fact that, in effect, this means that we are agreeing to the deployment of foreign troops in Hungary?

[Erdelyi] The legal basis is provided by a decision made by parliament this June which stipulates that the UN troops may use Hungary's airspace and territory to reach the successor states of the former Yugoslavia. Obviously, this decision is valid both ways.

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Izetbegovic Appeals to Leaders To Prevent Massacre

AU2107092295 Paris AFP in English 0843 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, July 21 (AFP)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic launched a last-minute appeal Friday [21 July] urging world leaders gathered in London for crucial talks on Bosnia to help avoid "the massacre of an innocent people."

"Five thousand women, children and wounded are threatened with death" in the Moslem enclave of Zepa "while you meet in London," Izetbegovic said.

He called on the five-nation Contact Group, which links Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States, to "use all means to avoid the massacre of an innocent people."

Senior ministers from Contact Group nations as well as top UN officials are seeking to forge a common position at Friday's talks on how to respond to Serb advances on UN-declared safe areas in eastern Bosnia.

The Serbs overran the Srebrenica enclave July 11 and claimed Wednesday to have taken the Zepa safe haven as well.

Discusses Zepa With Clinton

LD2007230595 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, U.S. President Bill Clinton phoned Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in order to talk with him about the current situation in the safe area of Zepa and in the entire Bosnia-Herzegovina ahead of today's very important meeting in London.

President Izetbegovic assessed the situation in our state as very difficult because of attacks on safe areas and in particular on Zepa.

Our president briefed Clinton about the fact that some 6,000 women and children are currently in mortal danger in Zepa, because of which direct talks were offered to the Serb side. The peacekeeping forces were asked to negotiate, but they have not yet given a reply. Without pressure from the international community, this will be impossible to do.

President Izetbegovic said that the lack of American leadership in Europe and Bosnia-Herzegovina was felt, which was damaging to the United States. So, he asked Clinton for more American involvement in the search for a solution to this issue, a solution which would not deny the right to protect the civilians and the UN safe areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. President, sanctions are the only thing we can use against Serbia, President Izetbegovic said and then stressed once again that Bosnia-Herzegovina was to remain loyal to its democratic and multiethnic character.

Our option is peace and not war, Izetbegovic said and confirmed this with the fact that the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina had endorsed all peace plans.

American President Bill Clinton said the United States would do everything it could [words indistinct] and he repeated that America would not trade with Milosevic and Serbia and that [words indistinct] sanctions.

Bill Clinton [words indistinct] a list to President Izetbegovic: that America will no longer use only proportional air strikes, but also [words indistinct].

We shall do what we say, President Clinton said, stressing that he understood UN fears that its troops might be taken hostages. He stressed that the UN were helping [words indistinct] in delivering aid. Clinton voiced concern that the additional 1,000 soldiers for the defense of Gorazde, which France proposed, would not be (?sufficient) [illegible]its defense. He added that he knew that the acti[illegible]ould be successful only if a fierce air strike campaign, with which the aggressor was threatened around Sarajevo last year [passage indistinct].

Appeals to UK's Major

AU2107083095 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the meeting in London, Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency President Alija Izetbegovic has sent a message to British Prime Minister John Major, which says:

I address you as the organizer of the meeting of foreign ministers, defense ministers, and chiefs of staff of the Contact Group countries. As you meet in London today the people in the so-called protected zone of Zepa are exposed to a tragedy. Five thousand women, children, and weary people are facing death. After Srebrenica, and the murder of several thousand people in that demilitarized zone, no one has the right to remain passive and allow the Serb terrorists to carry out yet another mass murder. That is why I appeal to you to use the means at your disposal to prevent the massacre of innocent people.

Mr. Prime Minister, I appeal to you to convey this message to the participants in the talks today before the meeting starts, says the letter from President Izetbegovic to the British Prime Minister Major.

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Meets With Turkey's Demirel

AU2107110495 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Alija Izetbegovic of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel are meeting in Zenica today. The talks between the two presidents are under way. After the talks Messers Izetbegovic and Demirel will attend a religious service together.

As is expected, the presidents of the two friendly countries will hold a news conference this afternoon. Turkish President Demirel is expected to visit the Turkish UN battalion in Zenica.

Rejects Recognition by Serbia

AU2007192095 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, today received European Union peace mediator Karl Bildt, who arrived in Sarajevo following yesterday's visit to Belgrade and on the eve of tomorrow's summit in London.

Regarding the possible recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbia, President Izetbegovic said that the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was not interested in recognition that would also entail a long-term suspension of sanctions against Serbia (?coupled with a highly permeable) border with Bosnia-Herzegovina, as it is today, through which the Karadzic's forces are daily receiving substantial military reinforcements from Serbia and Montenegro.

The hitherto experiences in the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina confirm that diplomacy without force is powerless in stopping the Serbian aggressor.

President Izetbegovic particularly emphasized to the European mediator that the drama of Zepa has reached its climax and asked him to convey this fact to the participants of the meeting in London tomorrow. At stake are the lives of some 5,000 to 6,000 women and children, who could easily become the victims of a new Serb aggressor's genocide, in which all those who could but would not intervene would be implicated, too, Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency warned the European mediator.

Silajdzic Calls For 'Ruthless' Bombing Campaign

AU2107104595 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 21 Jul 95 p 17

[Interview with Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic by Branimir Baron Brljevic; place and date not given: "The United Nations: A War Criminal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Brljevic] Could Srebrenica and Zepa have been saved?

[Silajdzic] NATO says it was never given the mandate to strike back at the Serbs, and this is true. The United Nations determines strategy in Bosnia, unfortunately. There is only talk of "harsh measures" such as air strikes when it is already too late. The United Nations should be facing the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague for its scandalous conduct in Srebrenica. The United Nations has thrown away its last chance of gaining credibility and has just completed its only successful military move, against itself.

[Brljevic] Might the UN Rapid Reaction Force at least be able to protect the remaining safe zones?

[Silajdzic] The Rapid Reaction Force will remain as powerless as the entire West. The UN mandate was wrong and counterproductive from the very beginning. It only helps the Serbian aggressors and not the victims. The only thing that we can do is not to renew the UN mandate in November.

[Brljevic] A withdrawal of the Blue Helmets could cause a chain reaction that would draw the entire Balkans into the war.

[Silajdzic] As long as the United Nations permits aggression by Serbian fascism against unarmed people, everything is possible. This sets a precedent that could mark the beginning of a larger conflict, perhaps even a world war.

[Brljevic] What should the United Nations do instead?

[Silajdzic] If the whole of Bosnia were to be demilitarized, that would provide the best chances of survival. Of course even then it would take a long time for things to return to a semblance of normality. But people here still believe in joint existence. They know that they used to live quite well with one another in the past. There is war because the Serbian fascists want war. The Serbian people are not to blame, they are a nation like any other.

[Brljevic] How do you visualize this demilitarization?

[Silajdzic] First of all, ruthless attacks would have to be made on Serb positions, military airfields, munitions dumps, and artillery batteries; everything that the Serbs have and we do not must be destroyed.

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[Brljevic] How do you explain the passivity of the international community? Is it because, unlike Kuwait, Bosnia has no oil?

[Silajdzic] The Gulf War showed that the UN Security Council is capable of issuing resolutions immediately if the six leading countries want to achieve something. But it is not just a question of oil. Most UN member countries are small. The war against the unarmed and multicultural Bosnia has demonstrated to them that they require protectors. And who are these protectors? The great powers. This is cynical, but true.

Warfare Preferable to Dying

LD2007191395 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent Etienne Leenhardt] We are now going over live to Sarajevo with the Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic. Good evening prime minister. Thank you very much for accepting our invitation in circumstances that are obviously very difficult. We have once again watched terrible pictures and heard eye-witness accounts. Are you still expecting anything from the international community?

[Silajdzic, in English with superimposed French translation] We expect action. There is a time for words, there is a time for reflection, and there is a time for action. The tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina...[pauses] A man can do two things in the face of such a situation: Either take action or abandon Bosnia.

[Leenhardt] Is the only solution for you now, prime minister, the lifting of the arms embargo and all-out warfare against the Serbs?

[Silajdzic] Well, we have tried all other avenues, we have tried peace, we have signed a peace agreement; we wanted to sign a peace agreement a year ago, but that did not work out. It is probably better to have all-out warfare rather than to lie down and die in silence. We must not do that.

[Leenhardt] Although it may mean defeat, prime minister?

[Silajdzic] Could you repeat that please?

[Leenhardt] Obviously, if a war is waged against the Serbs, this may mean a defeat for the Bosnian Muslims.

[Silajdzic] First of all, we are not talking about Bosnian Muslims here. We are talking about the Bosnian Government, which has been elected democratically.

Now as far as a defeat is concerned, we have all been defeated because we have not acted. The Bosnians are entitled to defend themselves. Those who have deprived them of their weapons are now compelled either to take action or to abandon Bosnia.

[Leenhardt] Mr. Silajdzic, yesterday evening our prime minister, Alain Juppe, suggested sending 1,000 troops to Gorazde, and stepping up the protection of Sarajevo. What do you think of this proposal? Are you ready to facilitate a possible French operation?

[Silajdzic] I think this stand should be congratulated. The proposal by President Chirac and the French Government is a stand that has finally been adopted by a European country, a stand that should have been taken long ago.

Those who doubt whether this action is sincere and serious have only one way to test whether President Chirac and Prime Minister Juppe, and the other ministers are serious, and that is to join with them. This is an action, a stand, taken by a man of goodwill, and as I said, if a good man does nothing, evil will thrive. So this is an action that should no longer be talked about, nor criticized, but which everyone should now join in. [passage omitted]

MBO Calls For Charges Against Butrus-Ghali, Akashi

AU2107144895 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim Bosniak Organization [MBO] held a news conference in Sarajevo today. Srebrenica has fallen into Chetnik hands without resistance and was betrayed by the international players.

Butrus-Ghali, Yasushi Akashi, and Bernard Janvier are direct accomplices in the handover of Srebrenica to the Chetniks and the genocide of the local population. This was stated by MBO Vice President Mujo Kafedzic.

The MBO proposes that all organs of Bosnia-Herzegovina file criminal charges against Akashi, Butrus-Ghali, and Janvier in the International Court in The Hague to stand trial, as stated, for dirty work.

UN: Some RRF Troops Allowed To Enter

AU2007184695 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Split, Croatia, July 20 (AFP)—A few troops of the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) were allowed Thursday [20 July] to enter Bosnia-Herzegovina, a UN spokesman said here. Others have remained blocked by Bosnian Croats who are apparently setting conditions, spokesman Colum Murphy said. He could not say how many.

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"Apparently the (Bosnian) Croats want the soldiers to take out their ammunition from their weapons as they moved from different villages," said Murphy, confirming earlier reports from French officials. He spoke of "constant negotiations between the Croats and us" but "no sign of a breakthrough." A Croatian officer told Murphy of "a number of complaints from the Croat side against the RRF," Murphy said.

In Paris, a top French official on Tuesday accused the Moslem-Croat Federation of "sabotaging" the RRF's deployment, also mentioning demands. He complained of a demand by Federation leader Krezimir Zubak to be given four days notice of any RRF movements.

Zubak, while denying blocking the RRF on Wednesday, nevertheless once again asked for guarantees regarding the RRF's role in Bosnia. The Federation wants to be assured that the force will not impede Croatian or Bosnian Armed Forces in their military operations.

UN: Zepa 'Quiet Overnight' After Serb Bombing

AU2107091995 Paris AFP in English
0900 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Report by Adrian Brown]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, July 21 (AFP)—The Zepa enclave was quiet overnight, UN officials said Friday [21 July] despite a brief resurgence of shelling of the town after a 70-minute barrage on the UN safe area by Bosnian Serb heavy weapons before nightfall.

"There was a very brief period of shelling attack on the centre of the town at 11:30 p.m. (2130 GMT)," Major Myriam Sochacki, a UN spokeswoman said. She said peacekeepers in the area were unable to determine who fired the shots.

The incident followed a concerted bombardment of the town by the Bosnian Serbs earlier in the evening which lasted 70 minutes. That began when a deadline set by the Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic expired.

Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic meanwhile said negotiations were being conducted with the Serbs to safeguard the lives of the "6,000 women and children in Zepa." He said 3,000 people had already died in Zepa.

U.S. President Bill Clinton called Izetbegovic Thursday to discuss the crisis in Zepa, an official Bosnian communique said.

It quoted the U.S. president as saying "we will do what we can for you." Clinton also reportedly told Bosnia's leader that the United States will maintain its pressure on Serbia's president Slobodan Milosevic, chief backer of the Serbs in Bosnia.

Ukrainian peacekeepers also become targets when the local Bosnian defenders attacked their base just north of Zepa town in response to the Serb attack. One storey of their barracks was destroyed along with a small medical facility, UN officials said.

A small UN liason team from Sarajevo has been established just outside the enclave at a UKrainian checkpoint which is surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces. Sochacki said the team was trying to reestablish links between the Serbs and Bosnian officials inside the enclave to "stabilise the situation and calm it down."

A senior UN officier would be present at a meeting planned for the morning between the two sides at the Ukrainian checkpoint Sochacki said.

Bosnian Serb official sources reported confidently Thursday that the enclave's civilian population of women, children, and the elderly would be "evacuated" to government held territory in the afternoon.

Mladic had even brought some 60 buses to the entrance of the enclave in anticipation of repeating the mass deportation of civilians carried out at Srebrenica, another UN safe area the Serbs overran last week.

However, Bosnian civil chiefs in Zepa rejected conditions laid down by Mladic which included the rounding up of all men aged between 18 and 55 years to become prisoners of war. The refusal to comply led to Mladic unilaterally setting Thursday evening's 7:00 p.m. deadline for the resolution of the "impasse." The 70-minute bombardment began exactly as the deadline expired UN officials said.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, tensions remained high in another government enclave, Bihac, in the northwest of the country. A second day of offensive action by Serb forces in neighbouring Croatia maintained pressure on government defenders in the west of the pocket, Sochacki said Friday.

Several hundred explosions rocked frontlines along the enclave's western flank. Serb forces also fired a number of rockets in their attack and Bosnian Army sources said they had lost control of two villages.

On Thursday, UN officials reported that 1,000 people fled advancing Croatian Serb troops following an offensive on the area Wednesday. UN sources quoted in Zagreb said a thousand Serb troops backed by tanks and artillery pushed government army forces out of the town of Sturlic in the north west of the pocket.

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Army: Defenders Holding Lines

AU2107110595 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the report from the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Press Center, the Serbian-Montenegrin aggressor is still heavily attacking the Zepa defense lines and the free territory with artillery, but the fighters of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, the brave defenders of this region, are holding all the defense lines firmly under their control. The Chetniks are aware of the fact that any attempt at infantry attack will cost them dear.

In this knowledge, the aggressor has intensified his special propaganda aimed at undermining confidence. This can be seen in his attempts at exerting pressure with his propaganda on the population of Zepa. All theses attempts have been unproductive. The Zepa people have learned the lesson from the case of Srebrenica, where the Chetniks again revealed their criminal character.

Regardless of the seriousness of the situation, the brave fighters of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army in Zepa have not for a moment allowed themselves to be dissuaded from defense, and to doubt their own strength and ability. They are the best guardians and the only guarantor of the survival of the Bosniaks in this region, says the statement by the Army Press Center.

Preparing Wounded for Evacuation

LD2007194295 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1840 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 20 (TANJUG)—The UN Protection Force in Bosnia (UNPROFOR) is preparing an evacuation of 35 wounded from Zepa, eastern Bosnia, in the next 24 hours, the UNPROFOR said in Sarajevo on Thursday. A convoy of UN vehicles will transport the wounded from Zepa to Sarajevo, the UNPROFOR said in a statement.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Geneva on Thursday that the UNHCR had not received information from Bosnia on the beginning of an evacuation of civilians from Zepa. Foreign news agencies quoted UNHCR spokeswoman Ruth Marshal as saying that there were no confirmations that civilians were on their way from Zepa to Kladanj. She said, however, that measures had been taken to arrange shelter for Zepa refugees.

The Ukrainian peacekeepers in Zepa said on Thursday that the Serbs had not entered Zepa and that Muslim forces were still there, foreign agencies said.

Bosnian Serb Information Minister Miroslav Toholj said on Thursday that everything was proceeding in keeping with an agreement signed on Wednesday by Bosnian Serb Army officials and the Muslim units in Zepa so as to avoid unnecessary destruction and civil casualties, the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA said.

A statement released by the Cabinet of Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic said that reports on Zepa's capture were untrue. The defense lines have not been changed and they are as seven days ago, the statement said. The statement said, however, that UNPROFOR-mediated talks were under way on the evacuation of the wounded, sick, and a number of civilians.

The statement said that the Bosnian Muslims demanded a supervision of a possible evacuation by UNPROFOR and other international organizations.

Tuzla: Relief Situation Strained

BR2007141395 Rotterdam ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD in Dutch 19 Jul 95 p 7

[Article by Othon Zimmermann: "Relief Workers Are Exhausted; Doctors in Tuzla Fighting Against Scabies and Diarrhea"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tuzla—Relief Workers in and around Tuzla have hardly seen their beds the last few days. The arrival of many thousands of refugees forced them to push to extremes. They tremble at the thought that thousands more will come this way after the fall of the "safe haven" Zepa.

It is too much for the area to bear. At present, 6,500 refugees are already staying at the nearby Dubrave airfield. "And they cannot stay too long," Bas Coesel of Doctors Without Borders Netherlands believes. [passage omitted]

Doctors Without Borders' highest priority is to get its staff (two Belgians and 131 local assistants) and Dutchbat released in Srebrenica. "We will not be leaving there without our staff," Coesel says. Two local assistants have already been murdered, and a refugee has passed along the name of a doctor whose life is also at risk.

Coesel thinks it is necessary to set up a program for mental health care, after the example of Sarajevo. In that city, local people are being trained as therapists. "Posttrauma care is badly needed."

Coesel happened to be there on the particular evening and night last week when thousands of homeless Muslims were driven from Srebrenica through the front lines to Kladanj. "It was an indescribable scene. These people were totally exhausted. They just collapsed to the

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ground in desperation. No panic, no excitement, only total apathy," the relief worker recalls.

According to Coesel, the first relief work was an impossible task. "There were no supplies in Kladanj. It was a cold, wet night. No sanitary facilities, nothing. The Pakistani military did a great job there. They did their utmost to provide the refugees with water and bread. The same kind of chaos occurred near the airport, where 2,000 refugees were abandoned that first night." [passage omitted]

At the airport, where 20 Netherlands military are stationed at the UN headquarters of the northeast sector, Major Wijsbroek expresses his dissatisfaction with the Bosnian Government's first reaction. "Initially, they shifted the problem entirely on to us, and were not willing to provide any assistance. They were playing a political game with their own people." He is also surprised that there was no help from the people of Tuzla, either. "One hundred baby pacifiers, for instance." He thinks that reopening the airfield is inconceivable. "Think of all the Serbs in the mountains. I can hardly imagine what would happen if a shell would come down here amongst all these people."

Serbs Disarming Muslims

LD2007181795 Belgrade FONET in Serbo-Croatian 1654 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pale, 20 Jul (FONET)—Miroslav Toholj, the information minister of the Serb Republic, said today that the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army units in Zepa were being disarmed. He added: "The Serb authorities are making all efforts to calm the civilians and to keep them in the area," SRNA reports.

According to him, "everything is being done in line with an agreement signed yesterday by representatives of the Serb Army and the government forces in Zepa" in order to avoid unnecessary destruction and civilian casualties.

Toholj stressed that at today's emergency session the Serb Government discussed in detail the situation created after the government forces in Srebrenica and Zepa were disarmed.

"We have paid a special attention to conditions under which it will be possible for the Serb civilians, who were expelled at the beginning of 1992, and the Muslims, who fled the latest fighting, to return," Toholj said.

He confirmed once more that the government discussed all possibilities for the Zepa civilians to continue normal life under Serb rule.

Civilians Refuse To Surrender

AU2007181995 Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, July 20 (AFP)—Civilian leaders in the Zepa enclave refused Thursday [20 July] to surrender to Bosnian Serb forces ringing the UN safe area and rejected conditions laid down by Bosnian Serb Army chief General Ratko Mladic, a UN spokeswoman said.

Mladic, who met with the Zepa representatives Thursday morning, set a 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) deadline "for the impasse to be settled," said UN spokeswoman Major Myriam Sochacki. She added Mladic did not say what would happen if the deadline passed.

Government Rejects Mladic's Terms

AU2107130995 Paris AFP in English 1238 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Report by Adrian Brown]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, July 21 (AFP)—UN efforts to mediate the safe passage of civilians from the Serb-besieged Zepa enclave suffered a set back Friday [21 July] when a UN liaison team was blocked by Serbs at a checkpoint. The group had planned to return to a UN position just outside the enclave after being sent away Thursday evening by Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic while his forces blasted Zepa town for more than an hour. The attack came after local government defenders rejected a Serb demand that they surrender.

The development follows a tense night in the town in which Ukrainian peacekeepers were also attacked by Bosnian Government forces in Zepa. It also came as top officials of 16 nations meeting in London moved toward issuing a blunt warning to Bosnian Serbs that they faced a massive air assault should they attack the UN safe area of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

A meeting was to have been held between representatives of the two opposing forces, chaired by the deputy commander of UN forces in Sarajevo, Colonel Nikolaj Verhoglyad, whose presence was requested Thursday by the Bosnian authorities in the enclave.

The standoff between the two sides is now in its second day. UN officials in Sarajevo said they could not predict the outcome of the standoff. "The best outcome for us would be if the Serbs withdrew from around the enclave. If we don't succeeed in negotiatating this and we probably won't, then the best outcome is the safe passage of civilians with security guarantees provided for all civilians, including males, that at their own free

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will, want to leave the enclave," said Alexander Ivanko, a UN spokesman.

The Serbs have been demanding that all males in the enclave aged between 18 and 55 years surrender to become prisoners of war in a possible exchange with the government for Serb prisoners. This has been rejected by the Bosnian authorities, according to a Bosnian Government official in Sarajevo who wished to remain anonymous. The government is also worried about the lack of security guarantees for the civilians. "The only guarantees we are getting is from the Serbs and that is not enough. We want the UN to do more," the official said.

It is understood that talks between government and Bosnian Serb representatives were also under way Friday just outside Sarajevo at which UN representatives are present. UN spokeswoman Myriam Sochacki said she could not confirm this.

Zepa town was shelled briefly after a 70-minute barrage on the UN safe area by Bosnian Serb heavy weapons before nightfall. The barrage began when a surrender deadline set by Mladic expired.

Ukrainian peacekeepers also become targets when the local Bosnian defenders attacked their base just north of Zepa town in response to the Serb attack. One storey of their barracks was destroyed along with a small medical facility, said UN officials who condemned the attack as "outrageous."

Dutch peacekeepers who had been deployed in the Srebrenica enclave which fell to the Bosnian Serbs last week, left the area for Zagreb Friday. By early afternoon the 310 Dutch peacekeepers who all their equipment had reached Serbia, UN spokeswoman Sochacki said.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, tensions remained high in another government enclave, Bihac, in the northwest of the country. This follows a second day of attacks by Serb forces in neighbouring Croatia on Thursday. Several hundred explosions rocked frontlines along the enclave's western flank during Thursday's attacks and Bosnian Army sources said they had lost control of two villages. On Thursday, UN officials reported that 1,000 people fled advancing Croatian Serb troops following an offensive on the area Wednesday.

In Sarajevo the first food convoy for a month arrived in the city carrying 250 tonnes of wheatflour and oil. The aid trucks came through a Serb crossing point where they were searched for two hours. Also Friday, shells fell on Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold near Sarajevo, for the third day in a row, witnesses said. They said it was not clear where the shells came from.

Abdic Forces Seize Areas of Bihac Pocket

LD2007222895 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1926 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Petrovac, 20 Jul (SRNA)—In a strong counterattack, units of the people's defense of western Bosnia this evening liberated the villages of Mrkici, Sturlicka [words indistinct] in the [words indistinct] municipality, Radio Velkaton reports from Velika Kladusa this evening.

Radio Velkaton says that members of the people's defense are continuing to advance towards Cazin from where soldiers of the 5th Corps are fleeing and leaving their weapons behind.

Units of the people's defense of western Bosnia today liberated Trzac, Trzacka Slapnica, Podovi, Salimovici, and Brkici and in the fighting the units of Fikret Abdic liberated a further 25 square kilometers of territory, Radio Velkaton reported.

A reporter on Muslim radio from Sarajevo said that Coralici, Pjanici, Trzacka Rastela, and Izacici are in ruins and that there are hundreds of dead and wounded.

UN: 1,000 Flee Advancing Armies

AU2007182095 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Zagreb, July 20 (AFP)—Some 1,000 people fled advancing separatist Croatian Serbs and rebel Moslems forces in the Sturlic area of the northwest Bosnian Bihac enclave Thursday [20 July], UN officials here said.

Local sources told the United Nations the separatist Croatian Serbs and militias loyal to rebel Moslem commander Fikret Abdic took Sturlic, a town in the northwest of the government-held pocket, Thursday.

Some 1,000 Serb soldiers supported by tanks and artillery approached Sturlic in the direction of Croatia, in the west, and progressed two kilometers (one mile) into the Bihac pocket, the sources told the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Dudakovic: Defense Only Option

AU2007152195 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Report by Nasa al Issa from Zagreb]

[FBIS Translated Text] The aim of the aggressor's earlier offensives on Bihac and Cazin Krajina was to defeat the 5th Corps, capture Bihac, and link the so-called Serbian Republic of Krajina with the so-called Republic of Serbian Krajina. This is also (?the objective)

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of the current offensive. However, the fighters of the 5th Crops awaited it readily. Previously, they [words indistinct], especially following a recent liberation of the new (?65 square km) of the Cazin Krajina, from Ivanjica to [words indistinct], on the left bank of River Una, and with the liberation of [word indistinct] on the Bosanska Krupa front, which prevented a planned Chetnik offensive from the direction of (?Doljnik) toward (?Stjena) and Cazin. Thus, linking the Serbian force [words indistinct] (?was prevented).

Why have the aggressors launched this offensive? A war machinery from the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina was set in motion, [word indistinct] tanks, howitzers, rocket launchers, rockets, aircraft, helicopters, and chemical agents are used [words indistinct] the Una-Sana canton. All this [words indistinct] only struggle and crushing of this offensive, just as so far. There have been countless offensives so far and we shall only recap two of the most ferocious ones: Breza 1994, which started in September and (?Jutro) which started in November last year. The objective of the Breza offensive, which was personally commanded by aggressor's General Ratko Mladic, was to subjugate Buzim and Bihac [words indistinct]. The 5th Corps on that occasion defended itself. However, in November, less than two months later, a new offensive was launched, (?Jutro), which was commanded by General Manojlo Milovanovic. [Words indistinct] to conquer Bihac, which the 5th Corps again prevented.

The soldiers of General Dudakovic afterward assumed safer positions from where it was easier to defend the town. [Words indistinct] started fierce attacks from the direction of Velika Kladusa, using paramilitary formations of Fikret Abdic. All this received substantial support from the so-called Yugoslavia. However, these crushed offensives show the strength of the 5th Corps.

Parallel to the fierce attacks, the aggressor also (?waged) intense war propaganda to cause panic in Bihac and [word indistinct]. He failed. Some 250,000 residents of the Bihac district know that their 5th Corps will defend them just as it has so far. There is no other choice and General Dudakovic himself says: Our only alternative is to defend ourselves.

Ham Radio Reports Claim Serbs Attacking Gorazde

LD2007183295 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic made a new proposal last night: that Gorazde surrender peacefully to the Serbs, and in return he will give up parts of Sarajevo. Do you have any contacts with Gorazde?

[Unidentified correspondent] We know about the situation in Gorazde from ham radio reports. We talked with Gorazde ham radio operators an hour ago. Their reports speak only about horrific and lengthy artillery fire from all weapons and all positions around the encircled Gorazde enclave.

[Begin correspondent Mustafa Kurtovic recording] Karadzic's terrorists stepped up attacks from artillery, antiaircraft, and infantry weapons last night. Especially fierce artillery fire was opened at 1830 [1630 GMT] last night, when the criminals from (word indistinct) fired (word indistinct) missiles on the town center. They also opened fire on the town centre from antiaircraft machine guns on Sjenokos and (?Jelav).

Following artillery preparations, Karadzic's fascists launched an infantry attack on Lokve from the direction of (?Misa) at 2045. The attack was repelled in an efficient counterattack by members of the 81st Division of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. So, our lines are stable and unchanged.

Since this morning, Karadzic's terrorists have been opening fire from antiaircraft machine guns and infantry weapons from Kamenjaca (words indistinct) and have been opening mortar fire on (?Prosjep) from (?Metlici). The settlement of Vitkovici and the Vitkovici-(word indistinct) road are also under fierce mortar fire.

Thanks to the alertness and a high degree of responsibility of the soldiers of the 81st Division of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Internal Affairs Ministry, there were no surprises, so the free Gorazde territory is under the full control of our units.

According to the latest information from the Gorazde hospital, there civilians, including a 10-year-old boy (words indistinct), have been seriously wounded.

This is Mustafa Kurtovic reporting for Tuzla television from the Gorazde press center. [end recording]

NATO Aircraft Overfly Area

AU2007184195 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Report by Muhamed Hadziahic from Gorazde]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gorazde safe haven, especially the town center and the nearby villages of Vidkovici, Mravinjak, and Vranici have, since 1415 [1215 GMT], when a general alarm was sounded again in this town, been targeted by Karadzic's terrorists from Jelacka Kosa, [words indistinct].

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At 1420, NATO aircraft overflew the territory of the Gorazde district on two occasions. After this, we heard two powerful explosions. At the time of sending this report we do not have exact information as to whether NATO aircraft attacked. One of the assumptions is that the NATO aircraft broke the sound barrier.

Iran's Red Crescent Opens Clinic in Sarajevo

LD2007144095 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—A health clinic set up by Iran's Red Crescent Society in Sarajevo was inaugurated in Sarajevo Thursday.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society on Wednesday and Thursday also distributed 3,000 packages of foodstuff and blankets among residents of Srebrenica who have fled their hometown since the city fell to the hands of aggressor Serbs.

Fuel Shortage Halts Sarajevo Bakery Operations

AU2007191795 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The residents of Sarajevo will most probably not receive bread tomorrow. Due to the shortage of fuel, the Sarajevo bakery has stopped production today. UNHCR stated two days ago that there is some fuel at the Sarajevo airport, but that no vehicles were available to transport the fuel to the city. In addition to the citizens, the shortage of bread will also affect hospitals, soup kitchens, and centers for housing refugees.

UNHCR delivered 500 liters of fuel to the bakery two days ago. The bakery requires 2,000 liters a day. Apart from fuel, the shortage of flour is also a problem. The stocks could last for only two more days.

Karadzic Praises Armed Forces for Victories

LD2007173095 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1621 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 20 Jul (SRNA)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic and supreme commander of the Serb Republic Armed Forces, has adopted a decision on the early promotion of Major General Milenko Zivanovic, former commander of the Drina Corps, to the rank of lieutenant colonel general.

The bureau for press contacts of the Serb Republic today announced that General Zivanovic was promoted in connection with the cessation of his active military service.

Karadzic is reported to have "appointed Staff Major General Radislav Krstic, former chief of staff" new commander of the Drina Corps. "Krstic and General Zivanovic were the chief architects of Serb victories in Srebrenica and Zepa."

President Karadzic congratulated the General Staff of the Serb Republic Army, the command of the Drina Corps, and the Armed Forces police unit on their brilliant victories in Srebrenica and Zepa, and on their crushing of the Muslim offensive against Serb Sarajevo.

RS Government Discusses Resettlement of Srebrenica

LD2007170395 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1621 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 20 Jul (SRNA)—At its session today in Pale, the government of the Serb Republic [RS] discussed a report by the government's working group that has visited Srebrenica and examined the health and epidemiological situation, as well as the overall situation in the area.

The government reached the conclusion that the priority task is to return the Serb population driven out of Srebrenica at the beginning of the war, as well as Muslim civilians who have fled in the wake of the latest combat operations.

The government also listed the following as a matter of priority: Improving the humanitarian situation in Srebrenica, supplying the town with water, food, and electricity, health and epidemiological prevention, restoring damaged facilities, and, as soon as possible, restarting production in the undamaged economic facilities.

The government will provide full assistance to the War Presidency of the Srebrenica-Skelani municipality and take prompt measures in order to normalize the situation in this area.

The government is closely following the current state of affairs in Zepa. At today's session possibilities were examined of resuming normal life for the population under the Serb Republic's authorities.

The session was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Jovo Rosic. Nikola Koljevic, vice president of the Serb Republic, also attended the session.

Bosnian Croat Authorities Debate Defense System

LD2007165895 Mostar Croatian Radio Herzeg-Bosnia in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of the [Herzeg-Bosnia] Presidential Council was held in Mostar today

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chaired by Kresimir Zubak, president of the Presidential Council of the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia. Today's discussions focused on the functioning of the defense system. Vladimir Soljic, minister of defense and a member of the Presidential Council, submitted a report on the current situation in this area.

After a wide-ranging debate, several conclusions designed to strengthen the defensive capabilities and effectiveness of the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] were approved.

The session went on to debate a number of questions, including the swine fever epidemic and its consequences in the area of the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia. In this connection the government will, via its competent institutions, take the necessary preventative and other measures and inform the public about this fully and promptly.

Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic Profiled

95BA0292A Zagreb HRVATSKI OBZOR in Serbo-Croatian 26 Jun 95 pp 32-33

[Article by Ivan Sabic: "Haris Silajdzic, Prime Minister of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina: Politician of Bosnian Victimhood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we know, the attempt by Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to procure the lifting of the embargo on the supply of arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina ended in failure. To no avail were his arguments that in no way would this be a unilateral move by the United States, because as the strongest power in the world it would be followed by at least 100 other countries. Silajdzic's failure was absolute, and moreover came at a very inauspicious time, immediately prior to the beginning of the offensive widely heralded as a move to lift the siege of Sarajevo. Thus, he could not even talk about the victims of Serb retaliation against the innocent population outside the context of the embargo, so that according to the Sarajevo news agency ONASA, in a statement issued on the deaths of seven people in a Dobrinja water line, he said, "We will ask not only governments in the international community, but also the public and the parliaments of countries in the international community to pressure their governments to lift the embargo on arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Every government that keeps us from defending ourselves is a party to each of these murders."

These are the vexing problems being combated these days by Haris Silajdzic, the prime minister whose government, the second in succession, the one playing the role of government of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, last week completed one year in office, an anniversary worthy of commemoration if one considers that it was formed at a time when the wounds inflicted by the fighting between the HVO [Croat Defense Council] and the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina were still fresh.

Silajdzic, born in Sarajevo in 1945 as the son of Camilbeg Silajdzic, former imam of the Begova Mosque in Sarajevo, speaks English and Arabic, and was practically unknown as a politician until he became minister of foreign affairs in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government, but after that his ascent was rapid and unstoppable, so that many have begun to see in him the only real successor to Alija Izetbegovic. Naturally, if the situation within the party allows that when the time comes to select a successor, i.e., a new leader of the Muslim nation.

The reason for this circumspection is the current balance of power within the leadership of the Party of Democratic Action [SDA], which is characterized by Silajdzic's pronounced isolation. His supporters in the party, if there even are any, are clearly in the minority, a fact that many attribute to Silajdzic's pronounced individualism, a trait that is never welcome in a politician, especially not under the present circumstances when political destinies are decided not by the will of a majority of the electorate, which can sometimes be won over with competence and charm, but rather by the will of a majority within one very narrow circle of people.

In the West, Silajdzic is usually depicted as the leader of the soft line within the Muslim political leadership, supposedly in contrast to the hard line headed by Alija Izetbegovic and Ejup Ganic. Some people elaborate this theory even further and speak of Silajdzic as a European, a Westerner, and call Izetbegovic and Ganic traditionalists or even fundamentalists. Such divisions are sometimes made even by those who have the opportunity to experience the political situation in Sarajevo firsthand, in the most direct way. Thus, last year Adil Kulenovic, director of the independent Sarajevo Radio 99, told the French LE MONDE that Haris Silajdzic represents the European tendency in the SDA.

However, there are clearly conflicting opinions regarding these hard and soft lines. Richard Holbrooke, U.S. assistant secretary of state, once said after a meeting with Izetbegovic and Silajdzic that "Izetbegovic is much more flexible and inclined to compromise than Silajdzic."

Like the other leaders of the SDA, Izetbegovic himself is loath to admit to infighting within his party, and especially to profess his wishes regarding a successor, unless we regard Izetbegovic's efforts to install Ganic

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in the (previously nonexistent) post of vice president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency as an expression of his wish. Once, when he was asked to say something about all this, Izetbegovic smoothly avoided an answer, saying, "One day the people will say who will be number-one."

Hence, one cannot exactly say that there is an abundance of material supporting the talk of discord and conflict within the SDA leadership, and there are actually only two events that can be taken as proof of the existence of such a situation; everything else is journalistic gossip based on a few trifling details of its existence or on "reliable sources." The first of these concrete events is a letter that Silajdzic sent at the end of August or the beginning of September of last year to the SDA executive committee, and the second is the open conflict with SDA cadre Amil Omerosftic, director of Bosnia-Herzegovina Television, which flared up so much that Silajdzic expelled Television from the government's meetings.

For some time, high-ranking SDA officials denied the existence of the letter in question and refused to comment, until the rumor began to spread that it contained very bitter criticism of party operations as well as his resignation from the post of SDA vice chairman. Once it was no longer possible to maintain silence, the letter was brought up at a news conference by Enver Kreso, a member of the SDA executive committee, who alleged that the letter was devoted to problems associated with the application of the Federation Constitution and thus denied the allegation of Silajdzic's resignation. "The problem lies with our habit of interpreting expressions of opinion as conflict," Haris Silajdzic finally remarked, but this did not put an end to speculation about conflict within the Muslim leadership nor to the spread of "confirmed reports" that Silajdzic is founding a new party.

During that time, at the close of a summer that will be remembered for the complete lull on the Sarajevo battlefield and for the fact that the road to Igman was opened, the criticism directed against him in Sarajevo was to the effect that as prime minister he should use that opportunity to bring food and fuel into Sarajevo. "The role of Haris Silajdzic as prime minister was not to continue engaging in diplomacy. His job is here, in Sarajevo. Winter is coming, and we do not have any provisions, neither food nor wood." According to the Sarajevo correspondent for LE MONDE, this is what an unnamed adviser to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency had to say about Silajdzic.

Nevertheless, when asked directly, Izetbegovic responded that there was no conflict whatsoever between him and Silajdzic. In an interview, Silajdzic said the following on the same subject: "In basic orientations, on basic lines, I agree with President Izetbegovic. Intellectually too, if you will, and also in terms of, say, mentality and temperament." It is interesting that he is not alone in this view, and even some commentators note that Izetbegovic and Silajdzic are an ideal pair, i.e., that Silajdzic is the ideal executor of the policy that Izetbegovic creates. In any event, in terms of foreign policy and negotiations on ending the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, no disagreement can be observed between them. Although many commentators, especially Western ones, like to add a high degree of loyalty to the Federation to Silajdzic's Europeanism, the fact is that it is precisely in this regard that he has not made any move that would not be in keeping with SDA policy. While the Federation's birthday was being celebrated in Washington in March, Alija Izetbegovic was visiting Germany and Haris Silajdzic was in China. In his speech before the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, Izetbegovic did not even mention Croats or the Federation, while in Beijing Silajdzic (successfully) negotiated for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Although he likes to emphasize that the survival of the Muslims "is always linked to Bosnia as it is," Silajdzic said the following in an interview with the Sarajevo magazine DANI in October of last year, when asked whether it was true that in January of that year, at a meeting of highest ranking state and national leadership, he advocated "saving the Bosniaks by creating an ethnic state in part of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina": "As far as I recall, because there are many things that I do not write down, I think that that is to a large extent accurate." On the one hand, such an approach sets him apart from the Muslim masses who find it incomparably easier to accept Izetbegovic's idea of an integral Bosnia-Herzegovina, which would be some sort of compensation for the enormous human losses in the war, but at the same time it assures him of the epithet of realistic and reasonable politician. It is precisely thanks to such epithets, which are unquestionably backed up by genuine political skills, that Silajdzic long ago recognized the importance of the image of victimhood that ensures that Bosnia-Herzegovina will remain on the front page of the world's newspapers and in the first minutes of news broadcasts. Thus, during the Croat-Muslim war in Bosnia-Herzegovina he asserted that there were as many as 20,000 soldiers of the Croatian Armed Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, thus portraying Bosnia-Herzegovina as the victim of two aggressions and justifying the Muslim elimination of Croat enclaves in central Bosnia. It was not especially hard to convince the people in the West of this when, even today, one year after establishment of the Bosnia-Herzegovina

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Federation, they are still asking when the Croats will return the western part of Mostar to the Muslims.

Nevertheless, the world's attitude toward the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina shows that the mere fact that Bosnia-Herzegovina is a victim of aggression is not enough to end the aggression in this way or that way. At the outset of the campaign to lift the siege of Sarajevo, it appeared that the Muslim leadership, directly prompted by the refusal of the United States to lift the embargo and its opposition to a military campaign to lift the siege of Sarajevo, decided to stop putting its faith in the international community and to take matters into its own hands. It turned out, however, that this campaign too was intended primarily to elicit new moves in international diplomacy, i.e., the opening of "blue roads" and restoration of the exclusion zone, which means that as the best executor of Izetbegovic's policy, Silajdzic, will be spending some more time traveling around to world capitals, explaining the difficult situation in which Bosnia-Herzegovina finds itself, and attempting in this way to secure an end to the embargo or some other concession. And, during that time, some will continue to criticize him for various things, among other things drawing attention to the fact that he is prime minister and not minister of foreign affairs, but all in the context of the struggle for the (for now) number-two position in the Muslim political leadership.

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Croatian-Bosnian Croat Border Closed to RRF

LD2007192295 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Rapid Reaction Force [RRF] cannot yet enter Bosnia-Herzegovina at any of the border crossing points between the Republic of Croatia and Herzeg-Bosnia. This was confirmed by Jozo Leutar, the deputy minister of internal affairs of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation and deputy minister of internal affairs of the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia. This order will remain in force until an agreement is reached with the RRF regarding its residence in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Correspondent] You are watching a demonstration exercise by the so-called RRF at the (Nina) [word indistinct]. You are looking at a real demonstration of power and force.

What do these forces intend to achieve? First, it is notable that the commanders of these forces last night refused to sign an agreement proposed jointly by the Croat and Muslim side within the federation.

What does the agreement say? Briefly, it says that maneuvers by these forces should be announced 24 hours in advance and that the regions in the federation where they carry out exercises should be announced and, of course, approved by the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] or the (Bosnia-Herzegovina) Army five days in advance and, let us recall, members of the RRF, I quote, will under no circumstances hamper the activities of the HVO or the Army.

By all accounts, this is not at all what the RRF wants, and (Vladislav Pogarcic), deputy foreign minister of the federation, when asked why this agreement was rejected, said:

[Begin Pogarcic recording] Simply because the RRF is here with the task of preventing further successes by HVO forces and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. [end recording]

[Correspondent] When we further asked whether the Croat-Muslim side will relax its position or, rather, if there was a political minimum beyond which it will not go, Pogarcic replied:

[Begin Pogarcic recording] That is in fact a political minimum. [end recording]

[Correspondent] In what way has the RRF demonstrated its rapidity up until now? Only by having arrived in Bosnia before a Security Council resolution on this, some people say. They have not shown this rapidity when they should have reached Srebrenica yesterday, for example, or Zepa today and Bihac tomorrow. Perhaps they think that things have become so gloomy in Bosnia-Herzegovina that today one can no longer see where they are rushing to. At least in Bosnia-Herzegovina today no one has any illusions about the rapidity of these forces today.

British RRF Troops in Ploce

AU2007191895 Paris AFP in English 1855 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, July 20 (AFP)—Seven hundred British troops, vanguard of the 24th Air [Airmobile] Brigade and second component of the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF), are now in the southern Croatian port of Ploce, a UN spokesman in Zagreb said Thursday.

The group already have 15 helicopters at their disposal, and 45 more are expected to arrive within the next 10 days, the UN said.

Four thousand British forces from the same brigade are expected to arrive in Ploce at the beginning of August.

Granic: Zagreb May Act If Bihac Overrun

AU2107095795 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, July 21 (AFP)—Croatia warned it might intervene in the Bosnian conflict if Serb forces threaten to overrun the UN safe area of Bihac in northwest Bosnia near the Croatian border.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic sent a letter to the United Nations in New York saying Zagreb would be forced to take measures if the UN-designated safe area in northwestern Bosnia, which nestles into Serb-held Croatian territory, was violated.

"The Croatian Government is following with concern the offensive against the Bihac zone," Granic said in his letter late Thursday, adding that the prospect of the pocket's population being uprooted "would constitute a serious threat for the security and stability of Croatia."

Zagreb fears that the surrender of the pocket would vitally affect Croatia's strategic interests, encouraging Croatian Serb separatists while compounding Croatia's refugee problem.

Separatist Croatian Serbs and rebel Moslem forces loyal to renegade commander Fikret Abdic have stepped up pressure on the Bihac pocket, which shelters some 150,000 to 200,000 people, over the past two days.

On Thursday, UN officials reported 1,000 people fled advancing Croatian Serb troops following an offensive on the area Wednesday that pushed Bosnian government

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army forces out of the town of Sturlic in the northwest of the pocket, according to the United Nations.

The Bihac enclave is the largest government-held area under siege by Serb forces.

RSK's Martic on Croatian Treatment of Prisoners

LD2007154995 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1336 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knin, 20 Jul (SRNA)—Milan Martic, president of the Republic of Serb Krajina [RSK], has pointed out to the UN Security Council "the one-sided and extremely inhumane and inadequate treatment in terms of European civilization of the Serb victims of war in the area of the former Yugoslavia."

In his letter to Martinez Blanco, president of the UN Security Council, Martic notes that "almost three months have elapsed since the Croatian Army entered western Slavonia, while the UN has done nothing to protect the Serb population in captivity."

Krajina's president stresses that not a single UN statement or report has been issued on the circumstances surrounding the remaining Serbs on the territory occupied by Croatian units.

The letter notes that there are about 800 Serbs imprisoned in the wake of the occupation of western Slavonia and "they are being held in extremely inhumane conditions."

"The number of Serb prisoners who are being subjected to torture and beatings and stonings while some of them have been placed in psychiatric institutions is not known," Martic stresses. He also notes that the Croatian authorities do not even want to inform their relatives about their condition.

At the end of his letter, the RSK president appeals to the UN Security Council "to invest its authority and force Croatia to allow UN representatives and the ICRC [International Committee to the Red Cross] to carry out inspections and protect the lives of the Serbs in captivity."

"The Republic of Croatia should be called to account for its violations of international warfare law," Martic informs UN Security Council President Martinez Blanco.

Way Paved To Resume Krajina-Croatia Peace Talks

LD2007143995 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1415 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knin, 20 Jul (TANJUG)—Geneva will be the venue of the new Krajina-Croatia negotiating process to be held by the end of August. This was agreed upon by Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairman of the conference on former Yugoslavia, and Milan Martic, president of the Republic of Serb Krajina, who held talks in Knin today.

Zagreb had earlier given its consent to the continuation of peace negotiations.

In a statement for the press, Stoltenberg said that the meeting would be held in Geneva without any conditions and without a previously drawn-up agenda. Both sides, Knin and Zagreb, should agree at the meeting on negotiations that will ensue and should determine issues on which a concrete agreement can be reached.

Stoltenberg assessed his talks with Martic in Knin today as very fruitful and comprehensive and expressed pleasure that an agreement to resume the peace process between the warring sides has been reached.

President Martic assessed today's talks in the same manner, saying that he is glad the international community "does not view the Knin-Zagreb conflict as an internal problem of Croatia."

Martic also expressed his conviction that an agreement on the free flow of goods from the eastern to the western part of Krajina will be reached in Geneva.

Situation Around Osijek 'Returning to Normal'

LD2007155995 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1538 GMT 20 Jul 95

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vukovar, July 20 (TANJUG)—The situation around the Croatian town of Osijek, after dramatic events over the past few days, is returning to normal, U.N. spokesperson for Sector East Kirsten Haupt said in Vukovar on Thursday.

According to unconfirmed reports, two Croatian soldiers were killed and several wounded in the area of Osijek in 'very serious incidents', as U.N. commander in Sector East Gen. Freddy van de Weghe described on Tuesday developments on the lines of separation between Croatia and the Serb Krajina army.

Kirsten Haupt told a news conference that Gen. Freddy van de Weghe had received assurances from the Serb Krajina army commander of the Slavonia-Baranja Corps, Gen. Dusan Loncar, and Croatian commander in Osijek, Gen. Djure Decak, that neither side would resort to the use of force.

Loncar and Decak agreed on Wednesday on a hot line, reestablished between Croatian and Serb Krajina forces for the first time since Croatia's aggression on western

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Slavonia in early May, that the Nemetina dump area would be reopened for industrial waste from factories in Osijek.

Osijek used the Nemetina dump area until the two sides signed a ceasefire agreement in April 1994. Under the agreement, the dump area became part of the zone of separation and its status has not been settled.

In a bid to regain, even by force, the use of the Nemetina dump area, Croatia threw away last week 90 tons of industrial waste in the river Drava, polluting not only the Drava river but the Danube river as well.

Croatia did not respond to repeated warnings by senior European Union and U.N. officials, the coordinator for civilian affairs in Sector East, Jesudas Bell, said in Vukovar on Thursday.

Kirsten Haupt said that between 1,200 and 1,300 Serbs had remained in western Slavonia after the Croatian aggression but that there was a general negative attitude towards Serbs who were also discriminated against in terms of job, which was altogether very discouraging.

Croatia still holds in its prisons 164 Serbs arrested in western Slavonia (56 in Bjelovar, six in Osijek, 55 in Pozega, 25 in Zagreb and 22 in Split) but has committed itself to allow prisoner contacts with family members, lawyers and officials of international organizations, Haupt said.

Haupt said that evidence on the existence of mass graves of Serb victims had not been found but that an investigation was still under way.

In its aggression on western Slavonia, Croatian forces killed 3,300 Serb civilians and 1,000 Serb soldiers and drove away 15,000 Serbs from their homes, according to figures obtained by the Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro.

Haupt said that several-day training exercises of the Slavonia-Baranja Corps of the Serb Krajina army had started on Thursday. Despite the fact that the exercises have been duly reported to the United Nations, Croatia has filed a protest to the U.N. command in Sector East.

Serb Krajina Denies Participating in Bihac Attack

LD2007203195 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1915 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knin, 20 Jul (SRNA)—The headquarters of the Serb Krajina Army today denied that the Serb Krajina Army has been involved in attacks on Bihac and its environs.

"Some media in the Republic of Croatia, the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have been reporting news of an alleged attack by units of the Serb Krajina Army and the Serb Republic Army on the Bihac safe zone," a statement says, and energetically denies these reports.

It is specified that this is a matter of inter-Muslim clashes between supporters of Fikret Abdic and units of the 5th Muslim Corps.

"Actions are being carried out north of the Buzim-Cazin line, and units of the 5th Corps, apart from engaging in clashes with the National Defense of Western Bosnia, are carrying out consecutive attacks on the territory of the Republic of Serb Krajina, especially in the region of Corkovaci, Koranski Lug, and Zeljava, and along the whole of the defense line," the statement adds.

The Serb Krajina Army headquarters specifies that the Serb Krajina Army is taking military action only when its borders are threatened.

RSK Report Blames Martic for W. Slavonia Fall

AU2007160295 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 17 Jul 95 p 7

[Article by Radovan Kovacevic: "Who Is To Blame for the Fall of Western Slavonia?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Milan Martic, president of the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK], is the person most responsible for the tragic outcome in western Slavonia. This is the basic conclusion of the State Commission for the establishment of the causes of the fall of that part of the RSK that was set up on 18 May by a decision of parliament.

The five-member team, which includes the interior minister, the deputy chairman of the Assembly, two senior officers, and a member of the Krajina Interior Ministry, is proposing to the RSK Assembly to call Martic to account for not having performed his constitutional duties in the domain of defense, which, in the Commission's opinion, is the cause of the shameful military defeat in western Slavonia.

Politics and Petty Politics

According to the document, Martic is charged with obstruction of work of the Supreme Defense Council, which is the body that is supposed to decide on defense strategy and other important military matters.

It sounds incredible that at that time the Council had not met for several months. As the State Commission has established, the president of the Republic was preventing Interior Minister Slobodan Peric, who was legally elected by the RSK Assembly, from work according to his constitutional authorization. So the

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police and army leaderships in western Slavonia, instead of being engaged in their professional duties and the defense of the state territory and internal stability, were actually much more engaged in politics and petty politicking.

The second person responsible, according to the State Commission, is Colonel-General Milan Celeketic, former commander in chief of the Serb Army of Krajina, because he failed to organize a system of defense in western Slavonia and was engaged more in politics than in the military problem of defense. The next on the list is Colonel Lazo Babic, commander of the 18th Corps. He, in the Commission's assessment, violated the international agreement on traffic on the Belgrade-Zagreb highway, which was signed by the RSK, thus giving the Croatian side a pretext to start the offensive. According to statements by high-ranking military officials, he, together with Martic and Celeketic, prevented the reopening of the highway on 30 April. Even though he was warned in time what would happen if the highway remained closed, he failed to acquaint even the closest circle of his corps staff with that piece of intelligence (which was quite reliable and clear)! Even after the fighting began he was still convinced that it was only a case of provocations....

Incompetence in Command

After Babic, there follow equally clear allegations about a group of military and civil officials who are very much responsible, in the opinion of the Commission, for the defeat and terrible suffering of the citizens of western Slavonia. According to the Commission's report, Milanko Babic, commander of an infantry brigade, should also answer for incompetence in commanding the course of the battle and for the rapid collapse of the unit in his charge, which had a particularly bad impact on the defense of the corps. Colonel Stevo Babac, commander of another infantry brigade, and Lieutenant Grmusa, commander of a subordinate lower unit, were also incompetent in organizing the defense, as a result of which the enemy swiftly broke through and cut off the communication Okucani-Gradiska.

Colonel Borivoje Popovic, commander of the Strategic Group, is also called to account because of desertions reported in his unit, and so is Arap Dragicevic, mayor of Okucani, because he failed to abide by decisions made by the state authorities, Drago Veselinovic, secretary of the SUP [Secretariat of Internal Affairs] department in Okucani, and Stevan Kresovic, head of that SUP department, because, as is alleged, they did not carry out their professional duties.

Having examined the extensive material, statements and analyses of the events in western Slavonia, the Commission has come to the conclusion that the 18th Corps was not an appropriate opponent for the aggressor's forces. Croatia deployed in this offensive stronger and better equipped troops. Besides, the Serbian corps was handicapped by a Vance plan commitment that its troops should remain separated from guns, tanks, and military hardware, in general.... Still, this cannot account for all those who were responsible for the organization and functioning of the defense lines in western Slavonia.

There Was No Help

The Commission has also established that the commanders at all levels seriously underestimated the enemy's capacities, particularly those of the forces directly taking part in the aggression. In the first place, the initial, introductory signs of Croatian aggression were not properly diagnosed, even though the intelligence they had was quite reliable. At one moment, when a brigade was collapsing under Croatian pressure in the direction of Novska-Rajic, in Knin and among the General Staff it was believed that the defense lines were quite steady! For that reason, the demand for reinforcement and additional help from the army of the Serb Republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] came rather late. That help, regardless of prior promises made by Pale and pathetic vows to heed the common interests of Serbianhood, failed to come.

This document confirms what is already known—that the so-called strategic support to the RSK was definitely organized late, so that the shelling of Croatian towns was ordered only when the defense of the corps was almost totally crushed. Therefore the shelling of Zagreb and other towns only harmed the Serbian units that were encircled (at Papuk mountain, for instance).

Many objections apply to the 18th Corps command staff, which failed to move its command post closer to the center of combat activities and remained at its former (peacetime!) location in Stara Gradiska. Even though the corps commander was explicitly required to remain on the left bank of Sava, on the second day of the aggression he moved his staff to the right bank, notwithstanding the restriction. "Such an attitude in the corps command seriously damaged the morale of the troops and weakened their determination to persevere in defense," the State Commission concludes.

Deliberate Provocation of Clashes

Nevertheless, those were just the consequences. The causes, according to the report, were much deeper. In western Slavonia, disorder was deliberately being stirred up, aimed at overthrowing the government, but in such a way that it only weakened the defense of that part of the RSK, which eventually brought about the fall.

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Colonel Lazo Babic, corps commander, has proposed that it should be established to what extent all the political games regarding the closing of the highway and misunderstandings about the reopening of the railroad through Okucani influenced the defense capacities and morale of the soldiers. Unfortunately, he has raised this question one month too late, when he already lost both the corps and the territory he was supposed to defend.

Colonel Babic says in his statement that today he is deeply aware how harmful the decision on closing the highway was, as well as the negative attitude toward the proposal that the highway should be reopened as early as on the day immediately after the incident on 28 April, or at least on 30 April, and particularly early on the morning on 1 May. The reason was that the most responsible people from UNPROFOR had warned him of the danger.

Unfortunately, he says that he was powerless in that respect because he had to observe the decision of the General Staff of the Serb army of Krajina, which was forwarded to him from Knin, from General Celeketic.

According to the Commission's findings, instead of strengthening defense lines, President Martic, together with Celeketic and some other aides, was touring all over Krajina shortly before the aggression and instilling in the people false hopes about defense and even new conquests. Colonel Branko Zebic, who has given a special statement to the Commission, believes that Martic and Celeketic were consciously provoking the conflict, even though the conditions for the corps to defend western Slavonia were inadequate! And the Croats knew that quite well....

These are only some of the more important conclusions and observations of the State Commission, the basic message of which is: True, the Croatian army really cannot be proud of its victory, particularly not after so many atrocities committed against civilians, but the defeat experienced in western Slavonia cannot be justified by anything!

[Box, p 7]

The RSK Assembly should have convened on 12 July in the village of Mirkovci, but, as is known, it did not because the municipal authorities of Vukovar, Dalj, Tenja, and Beli Manastir were opposed to that. The two deputy chairmen of the RSK Assembly supported their attitude as well.

Instead, on 14 July, following the demand of the Assembly deputies from western Slavonia, a meeting with the members of the State Commission was held in Vukovar. At the meeting, the assessments and suggested measures following from the Commission's two months of work were stated for the first time, with the basic goal that the public, particularly the huge number of refugees from western Slavonia now quartered in eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem, be informed of them.

RSK: No Comment

AU2007151395 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Jul 95 p 2

[Article by D.B.: "RSK Bureau in Belgrade Has 'No Comment' on State Commission Document"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade—People in the Bureau of the RSK [Republic of Serbian Krajina] are unwilling to comment on the fact that POLITIKA of 17 July published a document issued by the RSK State Commission about who is to blame for the fall of western Slavonia and whether Milan Martic bears most responsibility.

"In fact, the five-member team—the foreign minister, the deputy chairman of the Assembly, two high-ranking military representatives, and a member of the Ministry of Internal Affairs—has performed its duty, but the said document has not arrived where it should have arrived first—that is, the Assembly chairman—for further procedure, and it is now difficult to discuss it," Milan Ivanic, information adviser in the RSK Ministry, told NASA BORBA yesterday. "I am particularly surprised that this reached POLITIKA and Radovan Kovacevic, a journalist who has been writing much about the RSK lately ('everything published so far is untrue'), and I wonder who his source might be," Ivanic said.

RSK Assembly Head: Session To Be Held Soon

AU2007141295 Knin Srpski Radio Krajina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0500 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the consultations on the holding of the canceled extraordinary session of the Republic of Serb Krajina Assembly in Vukovar two days ago, Rajko Lezajic, chairman of the Republic of Serb Krajina Assembly, issued a statement for [words indistinct]:

[Passage indistinct] Borislav Bogunovic and Djordje Bogdanovic and the political agents in the eastern part of the Republic of Serb Krajina [passage indistinct] speculations about the canceling of the extraordinary Assembly session scheduled for 10 July in Mirkovci, said Lezajic. It was agreed that [passage indistinct] should be [word indistinct] as soon as possible, [passage indistinct], and it was decided that it is necessary to appoint a new government of the Republic of Serb Krajina.

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According to Lezajic, during the consultations in Vukovar, it was decided that Prime Minister-Designate Milan Babic should be asked to visit eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srijem [Srem] again in order to hold additional consultations concerning the government of national unity. All of the political forces from the eastern part of the Republic of Serb Krajina are prepared to support this government, said Lezajic.

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Chief of Staff Expects U.S., Turkish Support

TA1907175495 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1523 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Skopje, July 19 (A.A.)—Macedonian Chief of General Staff General Dragoljub Bocinov said on Wednesday that the U.N. embargo imposed on Macedonia was unjust.

Botsinov told A.A. reporter that "despite the embargo, Macedonian Armed Forces was strong enough to cause casualties to the aggressor," and later refuted claims that Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] was still importing weapons.

Botsinov said they regarded the U.S. soldiers, who were acting within the framework of the United Nations, as assurances to halt the spreading of a war in Bosnia to Macedonia adding "our main assurance is the belief that we will get necessary support from Turkey and the United States if we meet an attack."

He said President Suleyman Demirel's latest visit to Macedonia further strenghtened relations between the two countries.

Army Chiefs Sign Security Agreement With Turkey

LD2007170795 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1527 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Skopje, 20 Jul (TANJUG)—Generals Ismail Hakki Karadayi and Dragoljub Bocinov, the chiefs of the General Staffs of the Armed Forces of Turkey and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM], today approved a document in Skopje on measures to build confidence and security between the two countries.

The "Skopje document," as it has been called, is in keeping with the OSCE Act signed in 1994 in Vienna and comes into force on 1 August.

At today's news conference in the newly founded military academy of the Macedonian Army, Karadayi and Bocinov stressed that this agreement is not directed against third countries.

General Karadayi said he had signed similar documents in Sofia and Tirana, and that this agreement signed in Skopje can open a door for FYROM to enter NATO and other European institutions.

Talks on Albanian Issues Continue 'With Difficulty'

95P20916A Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 7 Jul 95 p 1

[Article by N. Maliqi: "We Are Not Giving Up Our Demands"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 6 July—The discussions between the Albanian organizations in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and representatives of the government of the Republic of Macedonia which began yesterday afternoon at the United Nations' Geneva headquarters, mediated by international mediator Gert Ahrens, continue today, but with difficulty, according to what both parties and Mr. Ahrens have told us.

According to the participants, the central theme of last evening's talks and the first round of discussions this morning was the University of Tetova and other issues related to education in Macedonia.

Some participants presented their opinions on the talks between the Albanians and the Macedonians and the results achieved so far.

Xheladin Murati said: "These talks are continuing but they are accompanied by a number of difficulties, with confrontations, and conflicts of opinion between government officials of Macedonia and our side. The talks will continue in the future, as long as there is no agreement on the legalization of the University of Tetova, that is, until the university is accepted into the system.

"I am an optimist because, if reason triumphs over these confrontations, I believe that an agreement will be achieved in this direction, although it is difficult and requires tolerance and understanding. These talks have been devoted mainly to the University of Tetova, that is, to higher education for Albanians in Macedonia. Ambassador Ahrens is committed to the acceptance of our demands which are related to international documents...."

Arben Xhaferi said: "I think that [in] these talks which have begun between us and the Macedonians, we have been persistent in our demands, not giving up the definition of Macedonia as a common state of Macedonians, Albanians, and others. Thus, our side has constantly tried to get a stronger position in the Constitution and, unless some aspects of the Constitution are changed, I think that we will not be satisfied with these talks...."

Lubomir Frckovski said: "We have a gentlemen's agreement that only Mr. Ahrens will comment on these talks, an agreement which I believe that we will respect. Therefore, I trust that we will give details about all the

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achievements and the results of these talks in a press conference."

Emilija Simovska said: "I am of the opinion that these meetings are most necessary and of great interest and that they will have their effect. Let us define and examine the problems and the positions we have taken; we are obliged and committed to present our attitudes on these issues of great interest."

Government Plans 'Purge' Within Ministries

AU1807201495 Skopje MIC in English 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After the announcement that the Government prepares a big "purge" in all of the ministries, in which there should be fired 120 to 150 higher-up state officials, we find out that from today on there will be specific steps taken. During this one and the next week a revealing, and logically laying off of all responsible people in the Ministry for Agriculture is expected, which people have badly elaborated the part with the signing of the permits about the importation of the pesticides and with the issuing of those permits.

It was announced that this week there will be laying offs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs too, and in its Economic Department, but, the Government will face resistance, as they say there, from the "hierarchy in this ministry." Otherwise, there is an indirect cause for the personnel interventions, connected with the last case with the importation of the tomatoes, which caused series of reactions and disapprovals. And if it was not for that, the previous "call for responsibility" of this economic department in the mentioned Ministry, should arouse the moral obligations of a state official, even if none of these speculations were true. The government is trying to make the planned personnel move in this ministry real and to suggest the minister certain changes. The names are still not being mentioned, but we managed to find out that it comes to a change of a bigger part of the present personnel of the Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Without a specific announcement, but also in connection with the tomatoes, the Ministry for Economy is mentioned, too, in which there could be laying offs, if not because of something else, but because there is no offered solution which would have stopped these kind of features.

Right there is the Ministry for City Planning too, in which there is a space for sanctioning of some higher-up officials because of the big number of overlooks in the regional units (constructions without permits, issuing double-meaning papers, not fast enough reactions), for which working are responsible exactly those people. There is a lots to do in the Ministry for Labour and Social politics, too. The thing that was estimated that it has to be reconstructed is the department for social prevention, the department for children's prevention, and especially the department for the so-called special detachments abroad.

For the Ministry for Culture, they say in the Government, there is no legal space, but there are deeds which are on the verge of criminal charges. Those are on the first place the wrongly made arrangements about the renting of business estates. It seems that the most harmful is the one for renting the space in MNT [expansion not known], as well as in the Drama's Theater.

The other ministries have not been mentioned so far, which still doesn't mean that they will be avoided. In the Government, they say that this kind of "purge" will happen in every one of them. We also found out that the whole initiative was undertaken by the president of the Government, who twice at the Government sessions seriously threatened the ministerial make-up that if they don't manage the ministries, he will manage them. The indirect cause for this kind of determination of the prime minister were the disastrous data which he gets, regarding the influx of the budget means from the additional taxes, which budget is lousy, in the same time when the consumption of gasoline, cigarettes, and alcohol is increased. The general spreading of the civil non-discipline and the dangerous tendency, as said in the Government, for the citizens to break the law, is adding to this.

Therefore, the general formulation for all of this kind of personnel interventions is improving of the material-financing work, as well as the unsatisfying results of the work of those officials in the ministries which will be found on the "black list." While, whether some minister will also lose his armchair or not, is not being discussed at the moment, but the prime minister's threat stays that if in some of the ministries an order is not made, he will use his authority. That would mean that firing of some of the ministers too is not excluded.

Natural Gas Pipeline, Risks of Earthquake

95BA0261A Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 12 May 95 p 14

[Letter to the editor from Prof. Zoran Milutinovic, chief of the Risk and Catastrophe Management Department at the Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology in Skopje: "Gasification of Macedonia: We Know a Great Deal, But the Future Will Show Whether It Is Enough"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The design and construction of international main and distribution gas pipelines,

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with accompanying facilities and structures, is regulated in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] by two legal documents, "Regulations on Technical Standards for the Safe Transportation of Liquid and Gaseous Hydrocarbons by Main Oil and Gas Pipelines and Oil and Gas Pipelines for International Transportation" (SLUZBENI LIST SFRJ No. 26/85) and "Decision on Technical Conditions and Standards for the Design and Construction of Distribution Gas Pipeline Systems in the Socialist Republic of Macedonia" (SLUZBEN VESTNIK NA SRM, No. 45/90). These two legal documents prescribe the minimal conditions and standards for the safe transportation of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons, the minimum of technical and other data that must be provided and kept, the period for their storage, for the investment-technical documentation, and also the technical conditions and standards for safety measures to protect people and property, and to protect the gas pipelines themselves and their auxiliary structures and offices that have to be used during construction, the construction and testing of gas pipelines for international transportation, main gas pipelines, and distribution networks.

The technical conditions for the design, construction, and safe operation of gas pipelines in seismically active regions in our country are not covered by legal and technical regulations, which exist at the level of legal documents, or recommendations for design and construction, in only a few countries in the world (the United States, Japan, China, and the former USSR). The dynamic influences upon the gas pipeline under the conditions of Macedonia's seismicity are assessed in accordance with the regulations "Main Gas Pipelines—Construction Norms and Rules," SNiP [expansion unknown] 2.05.06-85, conceived and formulated on the basis of the characteristics and conditions of seismicity on the territory of the former USSR, which is distinguished by weaker seismicity than the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

Macedonia's territory is primarily threatened by 10 seismic centers. The routes of the main gas pipeline and the planned distribution and city networks pass through the belt intensively influenced by the Pehcevo-Kresna and Skopje-Vitina seismic zones. During the 1902-95 period, the corridor through which the gas pipeline passes, i.e., the territories of the Kriva Palanka and Kumanovo municipalities and the five Skopje municipalities, was subjected on several occasions to earthquakes with intensities from 7 to 9 degrees on the Mercalli scale: more precisely,

1) The Kriva Palanka municipality: Two out of four earthquakes suffered had intensities equal to or higher than 7, and one had an intensity equal to or higher than 8 degrees;

2) The Kumanovo municipality: Five out of eight earthquakes suffered had an intensity equal to or higher than 7 degrees; and

3) The city of Skopje: Out of 22 earthquakes suffered, seven had an intensity equal to or higher than 7 degrees, four had 8 degrees, and one had an intensity equal to or higher than 9 degrees on the Mercalli scale, while it must be kept in mind that, according to the historical data, the Skopje basin has been subjected to earthquakes with intensities of 10 (in 518) and 9 (in 1955).

According to the "Provisional Seismological Map of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia" (SLUZBENI LIST SFRJ No. 31/81 and 49/82), and the "Regulations on Changes and Additions to the Regulations on Technical Standards for the Construction of High-Rise Buildings in Seismic Areas" (SLUZBENI LIST SFRJ No. 52/90), the design and construction of standard high-rise buildings (building categories II and III) in the Kriva Palanka, Kumanovo, and Skopje municipalities must guarantee the necessary level of seismic safety for an intensity of 8, and in the broader urban planning region of Skopje, for an intensity of 9 on the Mercalli scale.

The current legal regulations ("Regulations on Changes and Additions to the Regulations on Technical Standards for the Construction of High-Rise Buildings in Seismic Areas," SLUZBENI LIST SFRJ No. 21/88) treat facilities for the transportation and storage of combustible liquids and gas as "facilities without a category" for which the design requirements and criteria must be defined far more rigorously on the basis of a detailed study of the seismicity of the locations intended for construction. The projected and maximum earthquake must be defined on the basis of detailed research of the seismic risk, in view of the fact that from a strategic-economic and ecological standpoint, the functioning of other technical-technological systems whose disruption can cause catastrophic consequences and cause great material damage to the country depends upon their functioning properly. After all, not even the regulations of the former USSR ("Standards and Norms for Construction, Part 2, Chapter 7, Construction in Seismically Active Areas," SNiP II-7-81) are any less rigorous regarding the construction of special interest facilities, i.e., the design and construction of special interest facilities are carried out under special criteria, while the construction of such facilities at locations with a seismicity higher than 9 degrees is not permitted, except with special permission from GOSSTROI [State Construction Committee].

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From the seismic standpoint, the choice of an optional solution for the route of the gas pipeline, as well as the elaboration of the theoretical project for the gas pipeline system, are conducted on the basis of the results of research by the Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology [IZIIS] at the St. Kiril and Metodij University in Skopje ("Analysis of the Seismogeological Characteristics of the Terrains Along the Route," IZIIS Report 08-20117/1 in 1988). The seismogeological field research was performed by prospecting work on the terrain for a width of 2 km along the route, and at that time the optional solution for the gas pipeline's route was proposed and approved. The results and conclusions presented in the report are not based on the concrete parameters obtained by the geophysical and geomechanical field research (which is not even necessary for a theoretical project), because it was strictly limited to the 2-km corridor being researched and only for the purposes cited. They are preliminary in nature, they are not complete, and they cannot satisfy the requirements for the development of the main, or contracting, project for the gas pipeline system.

In the absence of real data on the physical and mechanical characteristics of the soil materials in static and dynamic (earthquake) conditions, which are determined by field geophysical and laboratory geomechanical research, SNiP 2.05.06-85 permits, and even suggests, minimal values for a preliminary estimate of supplementary dynamic tensions, but nevertheless decisively requires that they be clarified and precisely defined by the aforementioned type of research. The aforementioned research has not been performed by IZIIS. If it has been performed by some other institution, an interpretation of the results has not been made by IZIIS, and has not been incorporated in the aforementioned analysis by IZIIS.

World practice is that technical documentation developed abroad or in accordance with foreign regulations is validated in the country in which the capital project is taking place. That same position is positively resolved by the current legal regulations on the construction of capital projects in the Republic of Macedonia ("Law on the Construction of Capital Projects," SLUZBEN VESTNIK NA SRM No. 15/90, article 17, paragraph 2, section 1). The mandatory nature of technical supervision of the technical documentation for gas pipelines, oil pipelines, refineries, and storage facilities for liquid fuels and liquid gas with capacities over 1,000 metric tons is particularly emphasized ("Law on Changes and Additions to the Law on the Construction of Capital Projects," SLUZBEN VESTNIK NA SRM No. 11/91). Verification of the projected seismic parameters, as well as the corresponding section of the technical documentation and the safety of the gas pipeline system from a seismic standpoint, likewise, has not been done by IZIIS in Skopje, in spite of repeated attempts to be included in the preparation and development of the project.

The infrastructural development of Macedonia to date has been characterized by a north-south orientation. Consequently, most capital projects have been distributed along the infrastructure already developed, i.e., in regions marginally affected by the influence of the most powerful seismic centers, located on our eastern and southeastern borders (Pehcevo, Kresna, the 1904 earthquake with a magnitude of M = 7.8 on the Richter scale and an intensity I = 10 on the Mercalli scale; Valandovo-Dojran, the 1931 earthquake, M = 6.7, I = 10) and our southwestern borders (Debar-Piskopija, the 1967 earthquake, M = 6.6, I = 9; Ohrid-Korca, the 1911 earthquake, M = 6.7, I = 9). The gas pipeline system is the first facility extending in an east-west direction, and planned to have its dominant infrastructural density in the Skopje region, whose seismic danger has been repeatedly proven, most recently in 1963 (M = 6.1, I = 9).

With the future development of the gas pipeline system throughout all of Macedonia's territory, the routes of the main and distribution lines, and the city-servicing networks, will pass through various seismogeological areas, including the zones with a high seismic intensity of 9 and 10 degrees on the Mercalli scale, as a result of which the problem of resolving the safety of the gas pipeline and of the environment through which it passes will arise. The growth of the gas pipeline system and its servicing components will also increase the danger of damage even during normal operation of the system, and especially under the conditions of seismic activity, during which all of the omissions committed will manifest themselves destructively in the space of just a few seconds.

The experiences of the most technically and technologically developed countries in the world, with significantly longer traditions in the use of gas and with precisely formulated and regulated requirements for the design, implementation, supervision, maintenance, and operation of this type of facilities and systems, indicate that they involve a servile servant and a terrible master. We have witnessed a large number of fires in Kobe, Japan (the earthquake on 17 January 1995, M = 7.2) started because of the damage done, i.e., the loss of hermeticity of the already blocked Osaka Gas Corporation gas pipeline system. Of the 7.5 million customers, including industry, 15.3 percent were left without service, with the time needed to revive the system expected to be at least two months. Two explosions, accompanied by extensive urban destruction in a radius of 50 meters, partially

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disabled the gas pipeline system of Los Angeles (the earthquake on 17 January 1994, M = 6.6). An explosion with flames as high as 100 meters was caused in the northern Russian republic of Komi by the leakage of gas from a worn-out pipe (NOVA MAKEDONIJA, 27 April 1994). An explosion of the gas pipeline in Taegu, South Korea (NOVA MAKEDONIJA, 28 April 1995) was caused by negligence in construction work. The consequences were terrible, with a large number of dead and wounded, and tremendous damage was done to the surrounding buildings and urban infrastructure.

The development of gasification in a country constitutes a strategic economic process lasting many years, which must ensure, in addition to the safety of the system, the facilities, and the environment, the uninterrupted satisfaction of the needs of the final consumers. Safe and uninterrupted operation of the facility is an obligation, in view of the fact that the final consumers are paying for that service. A facility that is disabled by an accident or for some other reason is an economic category not only for the owners, but also for the customers. It has been shown that even the safest systems have their weaknesses, and the owner of the system is obligated to be aware of the reliability of the system under all operating conditions so that he can guarantee technically consistent and economically justified maintenance, maximally effective organization and measures to surmount situations requiring intervention, interaction with other specialized state services and institutions, and both the technical and material resources required for intervention in any circumstances. It is essential to define the conditions for regular and irregular operation of the facility, to work out and define the conditions and criteria for urgently shutting down the operation of the gas pipeline, and to provide adequate legal regulations that will clearly and precisely define mutual rights and obligations, and those who are legally and economically responsible for the losses caused; safe and economically justified operation of the system is possible only if all of the aforementioned prerequisites are fulfilled.

[Box, p 14]

[Letter from Prof. Stojanco Stojmanovski of the Skopje Machine School: "Realization of the Gama 800 Project"]

At the present time, when the economic and overall situation in Macedonia is particularly difficult, under conditions in which war is being waged in our immediate vicinity on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, it is enormously satisfying for all of us that, even under those conditions, investment activity is taking place in our republic; the Gama 800 project is being carried out. The significance of this project for the further development of our country is enormous.

It is precisely because of this fact, and because of the information on several breakdowns of such systems that have happened in the past year, even in countries far more developed than ours, accompanied by enormous material damage and human casualties, that my professional ethics compel me to state my position with respect to the need to ensure quality in all phases of the implementation of such projects and to adhere to technical regulations, especially because the implementation of the gas pipeline has been entrusted to a foreign contractor.

Positive technical regulations (read: laws) provide for, among other things:

- Review of the project;
- Validation of the technical documentation if it is done for the foreign supplier of the equipment, the structure, and the assembly;
- An additional level of supervision in all phases, with the aim of ensuring quality, from the design and implementation to the guarantee testing. In this specific case, the additional level of supervision includes determining the quality of the basic material, additional supervision of the factory manufacturing, and additional supervision of the assembly and testing.

It is usual throughout the world when implementing such projects to employ a neutral institution, which actually acts as an agent of the investor, and takes care of ensuring quality in all phases. It is for that reason that the experts who perform the additional supervision, in this specific case, should have a great deal of knowledge, including familiarity with the materials, the design, the welding technology, the testing of the welded structures, and so forth. It is usual for the additional supervision to be included even during the design phase (among the first ones), and it also maintains a presence in the project up until the facility is turned over—guarantee testing for proof of quality (the final phases). This method ensures quality during all phases of the implementation of the project.

At the St. Kiril and Metodij University in Skopje, the Machine School, the Construction School, the Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology, and other technical schools and institutions there are personnel with high technical, professional, and moral credentials who, within the framework of their activity, also have enormous experience, and can make a serious contribution to the implementation of the project.

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I cannot understand the policy of the ignorant attitude of the Makpetrol AD [stock company] Gasification Directorate toward the schools and scientific research institutes of the St. Kiril and Metodij University with respect to the implementation of this project.

Are not the lessons from the big accidents that have happened in past years in the Macedonian economy, with enormous material losses, precisely involving equipment and structures designed and delivered from abroad, enough for us?

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Commentary on Clinton Letter to Jewish Congress

WS2107102495 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 21 Jul 95 p 5

[Commentary by "Z.S.": "Clinton on Jankowski and Walesa; Shame Again!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We predicted that Father Jankowski's statement and the long-lasting restraint, to say the least, of L. Walesa would harm the image of our country. The prophesy did, unfortunately, come true because both in and out of Poland Walesa's delayed and vague statement was seen as forced and incomplete. Subsequent statements made by Father Jankowski, who did not take a single word back and said he believes he is right, made things worse.

In the West, particularly in Jewish communities, Father Jankowski's statements and all attempts, both outright and covert, at defending the prelate from Gdansk are not seen as isolated events. They are being viewed in connection with, for instance, the obtuse anti-Semitism demonstrated by Solidarity protesters in front of the Office of the Council of Ministers or by the participants of Aleksander Kwasniewski's campaign rally in Jastrzebie using Solidarity paraphernalia. External observers must find these incidents and the tolerance of those who should be the first to condemn them difficult to understand. They must also be baffled that the prosecutor is interested not in those who shouted anti-Semitic slogans, but in the politician these people threw petards at.

It is thus hardly surprising that the U.S. President wrote that letter. It is also no surprise that renowned satirists have taken up Polish issues, as in the caricature by Lurie we publish below [not reproduced here].

Poll Confirms Popularity of Top Five Presidential Hopefuls

WS2007131495 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 20 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by "NIKA": "Demoskop: Support For Presidential Candidates"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Demoskop poll shows that support for Aleksander Kwasniewski has grown considerably. One month ago, as other polling institutes claim, one in four Poles supported him; currently, it is one in three.

The poll also indicates that there are an unvarying top five candidates who continue to enjoy the support of at least 10 percent.

The sixth candidate, Adam Strzembosz, has a mere 4 percent, and 2 percent of those polled would vote for Waldemar Pawlak.

Jan Olszewski, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Leszek Moczulski, Jozef Zych, and Andrzej Olechowski have 1 percent support each.

	Percent
Aleksander Kwasniewski	32
Jacek Kuron	18
Lech Walesa	16
Tadeusz Zielinski	11
Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz	10

The poll was carried out between 7 and 11 July on a sample of 991 persons.

Dailies Carry Differing Reports on Same Poll

WS2007123295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Warsaw TRYBUNA on page 3 and NOWA EUROPA on page 2, both in Polish and dated 20 July, carry contradictory reports on a poll carried out by the Public Opinion Research Center on 23-27 June. NOWA EUROPA ranks Aleksander Kwasniewski in first place, with a total of 34 percent of support, while TRYBUNA claims the figure is 24 percent. Both dailies placed Lech Walesa in second position, although NOWA EUROPA gave him support of 14 percent, as compared with 13 percent in TRYBUNA. The dailies differ as to who occupies third and fourth place. NOWA EUROPA claims Jacek Kuron is third, with 7 percent, and Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz fourth, with 3 percent. TRYBUNA, on the other hand, maintains that Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz occupies third place, with 12 percent, and Jacek Kuron came in fourth, with 11 percent. In addition, NOWA EUROPA shows Tadeusz Zielinski in fifth place, with 3 percent, adding that 30 percent find it difficult to decide whom to support.

Broadcasting Council on Campaign Guidelines

LD2007131595 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1136 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw, 20 Jul—The National Radio and Television Broadcasting Council has said that election programs broadcast on electronic media should

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observe a principle of equal air time for all candidates for president, present their election programs honestly, show the candidates fairly, and carry interviews and present documents without bias, as well as present poll results honestly and ensure objective and competent journalism. This statement was presented at a news conference on 20 July.

Marek Jurek, the chairman of the council, also announced that, during the election campaign, the council will deal with candidates' complaints and complaints by people authorized by them within seven days. Decisions concerning complaints are to be made public.

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Army Head Praises Military Efforts With Hungary

AU2107060295 Bucharest CURIERUL NATIONAL in Romanian 14 Jul 95 pp 1-2

[Note by Reghina Varvici: "The Romanian-Hungarian Military Relationship Can Be Taken as Model of Cooperation Between Armies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel General Dumitru Cioflina, chief of staff of the Romanian Army, paid a working visit to Hungary [10-12 July], at the invitation of the Hungarian chief of staff, Lieutenant General Sandor Nemeth. On his return home, Col. Gen. Cioflina expressed his satisfaction at the fact that "the Romanian-Hungarian military relationship can be taken as model of cooperation between armies. We will meet with our Hungarian colleagues both in activities that are part of our bilateral relations and in activities within the Partnership for Peace program, whether they come here in multinational teams or we participate in such activities abroad, including on their territory." Last year, the two defense ministers agreed on some 15 problems of mutual interest regarding the development of relations between the two armies, which were approved by the parliaments of Romania and Hungary. Consequently, there is a political mandate for these activities, some of which will spill over into 1996. Next October, we will finalize the 1996 plan, in accordance with the agreement concluded between the two armies. Col. Gen. Cioflina met with the vice president of the Defense Commission of the Hungarian parliament, with whom he discussed the need for better understanding and cooperation between the two parliaments in order to lay down the principled guidelines for the Romanian-Hungarian relations. "During my talks with Hungarian parliament members and during the meeting I had with Defense Minister Gyorgy Keleti, I suggested that we discuss the conclusion of an accord on measures to increase trust and security between the two armies, which should also include the activities stipulated in the Vienna documents. The essential thing is that both partners want to implement everything that has been agreed upon and to find new ways and means to further expand these relations." The second goal of the visit was strictly professional, namely an exchange of experience in military units, some of which are newly set up, others with tradition: a specialized research unit, an airborne battalion, a mixed helicopter regiment, and finally, a mechanized brigade, which, through further mechanization and modernization, will become a training center, similar to the Romanian peacekeeping battalion. Until the end of the month, unit commanders from Romania and Hungary will meet to arrange all organizational problems linked to armaments, materials, and equipment for the first joint activity scheduled from 28 August to 6 September in Hungary. This activity will include firing drills, specialized training, tactical exercises, and free time. A subunit from Lugoj garrison will also take part in this activity. A Romanian platoon will participate in an exercise in Hungary between 16 and 20 October. Likewise, Hungary will be one of the 11 countries to participate in an exercise in Sibiu scheduled for 7 to 16 September. Other meetings will take place in Slovakia and Germany. Col. Gen. Cioflina said that no objections were raised to the new military units deployed in the western part of Romania.

Hungary's Kovacs Presents 'New' Draft at Talks

LD2007130695 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hungarian foreign minister in Bucharest has said that the Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty has to guarantee the inviolability of the borders and the observation of minority rights.

Hungary maintains that incorporating the international laws providing guarantees into the treaty—that is, the disputed Recommendation 1201 also—is important. Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs has agreed with his Romanian colleague, Romanian Foreign Minister Melescanu, that they have to strive for a joint interpretation of the recommendation.

These are the significant elements of the new version of the draft prepared overnight by the Hungarian delegation. The Romanian-Hungarian foreign ministerial talks continued this morning with the presentation of this document. Romanian President Ion Iliescu also met Laszlo Kovacs at midday.

Says Differences Reduced

LD2007214695 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1730 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] No breakthrough has been achieved in the matter of the Hungarian-Romanian basic treaty during Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs's two-day visit to Bucharest. However, after the talks he said that although differences have remained between them, the distance in certain fields has decreased. The foreign ministers will continue the dialogue at various international forums. [passage omitted]

After the talks Kovacs said the following to "Newsreel."

[Begin Kovacs recording] The Romanian side has climbed down from its previous stance that it would not hear of the 1201 Recommendation of the Council of Europe. What is more, we took a further step after presenting our proposals to each other. Now the

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Romanian side shows readiness not only for referring to the 1201 Recommendation in the basic treaty, but also for assuming some undertaking or other in the treaty. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Briefs Leaders on Talks

AU2007152995 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A second round of talks between the foreign ministers of Romania and Hungary, Teodor Melescanu and Laszlo Kovacs, took place in Bucharest this morning. No press statements were made after the meeting. The results of the talks will be made known at a meeting with journalists scheduled for later today.

The head of Hungarian diplomacy was then received by President Ion Iliescu, whom he briefed on the content of the discussions conducted with his Romanian counterpart. Laszlo Kovacs said that the two sides examined overall bilateral relations, the issue of the basic treaty with its still pending points, and various aspects of the regional and international situation.

According to our correspondents, the Romanian head of state expressed satisfaction with the continuation in Bucharest of the Romanian-Hungarian dialogue at the level of foreign ministers, in keeping with the understandings reached with Prime Minister Gyula Horn in Cannes. Mr. Iliescu emphasized that one should consolidate and develop good aspects of relations between the two sides and added that, regardless of the results of the current negotiations, Romania and Hungary must cooperate, so as to eliminate the barriers in the way of good understanding.

At his weekly news conference, held a short while ago at Cotroceni Palace, presidential spokesman Ambassador Traian Chebeleu referred to this morning's meeting between President Iliescu and Hungarian Foreign Minister Kovacs.

[Begin Chebeleu recording] The sides emphasized the joint interest of the two countries in developing relations of good neighborliness and all-round cooperation, and jointly making progress in the integration of the two countries in the European and euro-atlantic institutions. Romania's president praised the progress made in negotiating the still pending points of the basic treaty and expressed his conviction that the ensuing talks between experts—on the basis of the new proposals presented by the two sides—will lead to acceptable texts to both sides. [end recording]

Mr. Kovacs was also received today by Senate President Oliviu Gherman, who said that the Hungarian foreign minister's presence in Bucharest is a substantial step along the necessary road of cooperation between the two countries. The Hungarian foreign minister briefed the Senate president on yesterday's and today's talks with the Romanian officials. He considers it necessary to accelerate the negotiations between experts in order to reach certain agreements in the spheres of transportation, commodity circulation, and the development of consular relations. Referring to the basic political treaty between the two countries, Mr. Kovacs said that the Hungarian side insists on the inclusion of Recommendation 1201, which has no obligatory legal validity, rather it indicates the political responsibility of the two governments on the issue of minorities. In his answer, Mr. Gherman said that the mere inclusion of Recommendation 1201 in any document is damaging, due to the possibility of interpretations that run counter to the good intentions of Articles 11 and 12 of the recommendation. Likewise, the Senate president emphasized that the tendency to constantly nourish discontent does not serve either the Romanian majority or the Hungarian minority in Romania. The Hungarian foreign minister said that these manifestations of discontent should be given careful consideration.

Welcoming the presence of the Hungarian foreign minister, Mr. Adrian Nastase [speaker of the Chamber of Deputies] said that it can mark an important moment in the development of bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that the visit will lead to the finalization of negotiations on the basic Romanian-Hungarian political treaty. The treaty will be a foundation for further development of bilateral and other relations. Showing understanding of the difficulties inherent in the negotiation of such a treaty, with its strong impact upon public opinion and political parties in each country, Mr. Nastase stressed that the Romanian side and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs came up with new proposals for the text of the treaty, which they consider as capable of meeting the requirements of the Hungarian side. He said that if the basic treaty is not signed, it will not be because of the Romanian side's lack of will. Mr. Kovacs noted with satisfaction that the relations between Romania and Hungary have intensified of late and recalled the development of ties on other planes, too, such as the military field and the opening of new border points. During the meeting, the Hungarian foreign minister suggested that negotiations could be held on other important issues, too. At Mr. Nastase's initiative, the sides discussed the news about the possibility of Hungary requiring entry visas for the Romanian citizens. Kovacs said that no

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decision has yet been taken in this respect. The Hungarian Government institutions with prerogatives in the sphere of foreign relations are currently examining the implications and consequences of such a decision, including those of reciprocity—our correspondent Daniela Simonescu reports.

At this time, Mr. Kovacs is being received by Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu at Victoria Palace. A meeting with representatives of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania is scheduled for later in the afternoon.

Daily Views Tudor's Attacks on Iliescu

AU2007202295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian on 12 July on page 8 carries a 700-word article by Radu Tudor, Liviu Avram, Iulian Chifu, and Carmen Mafter entitled "According to ROMPRES, the Officers Who Signed the 'Letter of the 300 Military Cadres' Have Been Interrogated in Botosani" reporting on an alleged investigation of "some of the officers" who signed a letter accusing Iliescu of "high treason." The article mentions that ROMPRES, when reporting on "interrogation" quotes "Army sources," however, it does not mention who is carrying out the investigation, the interrogation, or the identities of the respective officers being interrogated at Botosani garrison. The article notes that EVENIMENTUL ZILEI journalists contacted the Army and found out that no such interrogation is taking place currently, and that ROMPRES based the respective information on the fact that "the Senatorial Commission for Defense, Public Order, and National Security, led by Social Democracy Party of Romania Senator Radu Timpofte is currently in Botosani with a well-organized program." The authors of the article mention that "it is possible that at Botosani barracks some officers complained about conditions of military life, but there is not one who would have admitted signing the 'Letter of the 300 Officers.'"

However, the article mentions that the Senate's Defense Commission "has started on 10 July a 30-day tour of the country aimed at finding out the material and psychological state of the Army." The members of the delegation visited Buzau and Focsani garrisons where Radu Timpofte talked about privatization of the defense industry. Asked about the letter of the 300 officers, Timofte is quoted saying that "Had Vadim Tudor [Greater Romania Party president] been interested in the fate of the Army, he would have been here with us, considering that he is also a member of this commission. He was invited to participate in this tour, but he refused to come." The article mentions that although Timpofte asked that officers should not disclose the subject of the meeting in Botosani to the press, the journalists found out that "officers' social problems" and the issue of "retired officers' pensions" have been discussed.

EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian on 13 July, carries on page 8 a 600-word article by Doru Dragomir, entitled "The Interrogation of the Officers Who Signed the Letter of the 300 Military Cadres Is a Diversion Just Like the News Spread About Alleged Dismissal of SRI [Romanian Intelligence Service] Director Virgil Magureanu" continues refuting rumors about any ongoing interrogation of officers, and quotes Colonel Mihai Onisor from Botosani who says that he regrets "the amateurish and superficial way" in which such rumors were disseminated and "the most elementary rules in editing certain received information have been ignored." Col. Mihai is also quoted as mentioning that the Botosani County correspondent of the ROMPRES news agency was penalized for the way he dealt with the news report.

EVENIMNETUL ZILEI on 14 July, continues reporting on the issue of the "letter of 300 officers." In a 900-word article entitled "Systematically Attacked by Corneliu Vadim Tudor, Ion Iliescu Is Smiling Broadly," Victor Bratu and Ciprian Radavoi several of Tudor's attacks and calumnies against President Iliescu are listed, among them calling the president by the nickname "Nelu Cotrocelu, KGB agent," or "the Jew's man" and "the traitor." The article mentions that, while continuing to attack the president, the weekly ROMANIA MARE, of which he is the director, called Tudor "the person who really loves his nation" or a person who is "steadfast and determined to devote his life to the act of pulling Romania out of the current state" or "a dynamic, energetic, and enthusiastic man, with great elan, who is driven by the most sincere Romanian feelings" and who "works day and night in order to give millions of Romanians spiritual food through his magazines." The article mentions that, according to presidential spokesman Traian Chebeleu, President Iliescu fails to respond to Tudor's accusations because they are "below his dignity to react to such low level calumnies" but, according to the authors, Tudor's actions and articles are just "aspects of his electoral campaign."

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Politicians Oppose Change in Constitution

95BA0287A Ljubljana SLOVENEC in Slovene 21 Jun 95 p 4

[Statement by Dr. France Bucar, Dr. Tine Hrabar, Dr. Peter Jambrek, Dr. Tone Jerovsek, Dr. Joze Mencinger, and Dr. Lojze Ude: "Territory Is an Element of Sovereignty"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

I.

Territory is one of the three constituent elements of state sovereignty. Ownership of land therefore received special protection in Article 68 of the Slovene Constitution. Only Slovene citizens can be landowners.

In Slovenia's case, that kind of protection is particularly justified because it is a state that is still emerging, that is in transition to a new sociopolitical structure, and whose economy is still not strong enough to be able to defend its wealth on its own against encroachments upon its territorial integrity.

As long as that situation continues, eliminating that constitutional protection would mean exposing state sovereignty to the danger of erosion at one of its most sensitive points.

II.

Slovenia's efforts to join European associations also mean strengthening its statehood. The coordination of its legislation with the standards of the basic European institutions is also completely in accordance with the interests of the Slovene state. That coordination, however, must take place in parallel with its becoming ready for the individual European institutions and in accordance with those institutions' requirements.

III.

During the present period of Slovenia's inclusion, it is seeking to gain the status of an associate member of the EU [European Union]. The present constitutional provision that foreigners can acquire ownership rights to real estate under the conditions specified by law creates the legal possibility of fully satisfying the requirements for associate membership status without amending that constitutional provision. In fact, no European association is demanding such an amendment from Slovenia.

IV.

The amendment to the constitutional provision in Article 68, which the government of the Republic of Slovenia sent to the State Assembly as its own initiative, is, in view of the above-mentioned legal and factual circumstances, already unnecessary and harmful, and directly threatens state interests.

V.

A referendu on these issues comes into consideration only in rega to making a decision directly on joining the EU. A long period of time, during which not only the EU itself will be further transformed, but Slovenia's political and economic power will be substantially strengthened, is still expected to separate us from that phase. Slovenia will be able to negotiate with the EU as the same partner, but a substantially different one.

The constitutional provision that in the Slovene state foreigners cannot acquire ownership rights to land (except by inheritance, under the condition of reciprocity) was adopted after careful consideration and justification. Almost all of the deputies elected in the first postwar democratic elections voted for it.

That provision, like the entire Constitution, is a consequence of the Slovene people's lasting right to self-determination and of the historical fact that we Slovenes, in a struggle for national liberation that has lasted several centuries, formed our own national identity and promoted our own statehood.

Perhaps large and militarily and economically powerful states do not need similar restrictions. Quite the contrary, it is an obstacle to them if weaker and less wealthy peoples than they cling to those restrictions. Constitutional protection of the territory of a small state, in fact, means an obstacle to the enrichment of those who are already rich, and an obstacle to the expansion of the political influence of the powerful ones across their state borders.

We Slovenes spent the last half century in a political system whose consequences are an inefficient economy, an endangered environment, and low legal and political culture. In spite of that, we have gathered enough civic courage and political skill for the establishment and recognition of our own state. Through the Constitution, we ensured its internal democracy and external sovereignty.

In terms of the level of our culture and civilization, we can easily compare ourselves to the countries of the present EU. That applies even more to a comparison with the countries that have already signed associate membership agreements with that union: Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Some of them (for example Bulgaria, Estonia, and Latvia) also have similar constitutional restrictions on foreigners' property rights, surely for the same reasons that we do.

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The constitutional protection given by the provision limiting foreigners' right to own real estate and especially land has even greater significance at the present time, when ownership is passing from the hands of an anonymous political authority to the hands of known owners. It is therefore honest and intelligent to ensure that the present generation of Slovenes also has that property advantage over foreigners. Selling land during troubles that we hope will be over soon would be frivolous and shortsighted—both from the standpoint of the individual and from the standpoint of the national economy as a whole. Four years ago, the Constitutional Assembly understood those benefits for our state well and anticipated them, and ensured them by Article 68 of the Constitution.

Perhaps someday that constitutional provision really will have to be amended or eliminated. It should be done, however, only when Slovenia is granted full membership in the EU, and not just associate membership, which is essentially nothing more than a free trade agreement with vague promises of full membership at an indefinite time. The present constitutional framework is by no means an obstacle to economic cooperation, and changing the Constitution now can only give rise to more and more demands and acts of extortion. It is already completely clear now that the constitutional restrictions on foreigners' property rights will become more and more unnecessary the stronger the Slovene economy is, the more established the state's fundamental institutions are, and the more settled domestic property regulation is.

The first and last condition for initiating international negotiations on the constitutional guarantees for the fundamental interests of our state is consistent and thorough respect for citizens' right to comprehensive information and participation in the management of public affairs.

We are convinced that none of the above-mentioned conditions for international negotiations on the provisions of the Slovene Constitution, including its Article 68, have been fully met. We therefore call upon the Slovene public to monitor the negotiations already begun and judge them carefully and independently on the basis of different sources of information, to acquaint itself as well with opinions contrary to the government's, to give priority to professionally credible opinions, and last, but not least, to state its independently formed positions publicly and courageously.

Opposition Leader Comments on State of Democracy

95BA0284E Ljubljana SLOVENEC in Slovene 22 Jun 95 p 4

[Article by Marjeta Smolnikar: "We Still Have Not Gotten Rid of Our Old Habits"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ljubljana—"If the parties of the Slovene Spring do not succeed in gathering 50.1 percent of the votes in the next State Assembly elections, then I am afraid that we will not succeed in stopping the restoration of a whole series of old political structures and habits. The parties of the Slovene Spring, at least by May or June 1996, should agree on their fundamental goals, because if two people fight, a third will profit," emphasized Joze Pucnik at a lecture on Tuesday at the Theological School in Ljubljana.

The topic of the lecture was "How To Achieve Democracy in Slovenia." In Joze Pucnik's opinion, the parties ought to achieve agreement on their concept of Slovene foreign policy, the privatization process, the position that differences from the past need to be settled in the name of national identity, the modernization of the state administration, and at least on upbringing and education.

"We can find the correct road to democracy if we answer the question of what democratic elements were eliminated after the revolution in Slovenia, and then restore them precisely once again," Joze Pucnik thinks. "After the revolution, the civil society and law-governed state were removed from political life, and also the instruments for political regulation and conduct of the state in the sense of the legitimacy of the authorities. We have all of those institutions and mechanisms that are characteristic of civilized Europe at the verbal level today, but we have not given them their content, and consequently a lot of black holes are appearing.

"In 1945, the civil society died, so to speak. Societies, for example, were eliminated, and consequently we have to try to establish them again. It is important that in societies and associations people regularly speak up, and we must learn to talk again without asking whether the idea or position uttered is appropriate. It is also important that people have access to politicians, and vice versa.

"Only a great deal of confusion arose from the reforms of regional self-government, and so that area is still not effective. The sense of a regional community is the

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foundation for broader association, the participation of all the people in that community and not 10 percent; the essence is a feeling of membership. Slovenia is still far behind the developed world in that regard."

Not even the trade union movement has any real content. "It is unusual to have trade unions strike on behalf of directors and, at the same time, sign an agreement with the government on a minimum gross wage of 45,000 tolars; that is 'turning the world upside down,'" Joze Pucnik said.

"In the economy, privatization still has not been completed. The former SDK [Public Auditing Service] has determined about 51 billion tolars in damages to the former social property. A large part of that money will never be returned," Joze Pucnik emphasized.

We also have, and yet do not have, a law-governed state. We have everything that Switzerland and Denmark have, for instance (a judicial system, a prosecutor's office, a system of state education, debenture law, and so forth), while the Judicial Council deliberately violates the law. As proof, Joze Pucnik cited the lifetime appointment of 700 judges, who were confirmed by the State Assembly at the proposal of the Judicial Council. "Some of us in parliament pointed out the fact that the Judicial Council had violated the law, but the majority of deputies accepted it, which is absurd. That proves the illusory nature of that institution," Joze Pucnik said.

"Although the greatest dilettantism is occurring in politics, it is necessary," Pucnik said. "After the democratic elections, changes occurred at a symbolic level, but the subsystems remained almost unchanged. As soon as it turned out that the symbolic level remained symbolic, activities increased in the subsystems that represent an extremely serious opponent of democratic changes in Slovenia. Against them, it is necessary to gather a sufficient amount of political influence to affect the subsystems. It appears that the democratic bloc does not have that political power (at the moment). That is why the parties of the Slovene Spring, even before the elections, have to reach agreement on the fundamental problems of our country. Everything else can remain different. If we do not achieve this in the next elections, then the road to democracy will be much longer. Democracy will come sooner or later, because Slovenia stands on firm foundations and we can be proud that we have it," Joze Pucnik concluded his thoughts about the roads to democracy.

[Box, p 4]

"The Prosecutor's Office is subordinate to the government, i.e., the Ministry of Justice, which makes it possible to make the Prosecutor's Office subordinate to the pragmatism of the political situation. The situation is also bad in the state administration, where there is no clear organizational structure. The Accounting Court is still not in operation, and absurdities have occurred there, when two members will verify whether they acted in accordance with the law last year. With respect to debenture law, everything is going the domestic way, and no one, so to speak, is following the rules. The consequence of everything that has been listed is people's disappointment," Joze Pucnik noted.

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Federal

UN: Resolution Needed To Alter Air Strike Policy

LD2007204495 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2007 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, July 20 (TANJUG)—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali cannot give to NATO the so-called dual key system for air strikes in Bosnia without a special Security Council resolution, UN spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said Thursday.

The "dual key" system is included in UN Security Council resolutions, Fawzi said and added that a new resolution was necessary for any change of mandate and formula of the implementation of air force.

U.S. media and diplomatic sources speculate that at the Contact Group meeting in London on Friday, pressure will be put on Butrus-Ghali to give to NATO the "dual key" system and decisionmaking on air strikes, which is currently shared between him and his envoy Yasushi Akashi.

If such a decision is made in London, Russia or maybe China, which oppose the use of force in principle, could veto it in the UN Security Council, Fawzi said.

Kontic Opposes UN Withdrawal, Changed Mandate

LD2007194695 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1906 GMT 20 Jul 95

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 20 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic said Thursday that UN troops were an unreplaceable factor of peace in the former Yugoslavia and that Yugoslavia was opposed to their withdrawal or change of their mandate.

Kontic was speaking with outgoing UN force's head of civil affairs in the former Yugoslavia, Michel Moussali, who was received on a farewell visit, the Yugoslav information secretariat said in a statement.

Kontic praised the peacekeepers' engagement and said that the tragedy in the former Yugoslavia would be infinitely worse without them. Moussali mentioned big efforts that Yugoslavia and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic were making for a political solution to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, the statement said.

Grave consequences of the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia were specially mentioned in the talks. Kontic said he hoped that the sanctions would be lifted as soon as possible, not only because they were unjustly imposed, but also because their further keeping in place strengthened militant forces and increased distrust of the international community, which he said was inadequately valuing Yugoslavia's efforts aimed at finding a political solution to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

Kontic said that hundreds of thousands of refugees, 75 percent of whom found accommodation with Yugoslav families, were also in a difficult position, and that it was unacceptable that the international community reduce the anyway symbolical assistance to refugees in Yugoslavia.

Kontic and Moussali reviewed the issues of ensuring normal conditions for the further work of the UN force's office in Belgrade, the statement said.

DS Leader, French Envoy on Greater European Role

LD2007193195 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1819 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 20, (TANJUG)—The President of the Democratic Party (DS), Zoran Djindjic, and French charge d'affaires in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Gabriel Keller, said Thursday that Europe should play a greater role in the efforts to establish lasting peace in Bosnia, DS press service said.

Europe has a much better understanding of the causes of war in former Yugoslavia than the United States, they believe.

The president of DS, third largest opposition party in Serbia, said all plans proposed so far by the international community were in fact only ultimatums to the Serbs and contained no realistic or attractive offers.

The war will end the moment the Contact Group offers a plan proposing a comprehensive political settlement, Djindjic said.

SPS Member, German Socialist Discuss Sanctions

LD2007190895 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1813 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 20 (TANJUG)—Member of the main board of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] Oliver Potezica said on Thursday in talks with Germany's Party of Democratic Socialism senior member Volfgang Mayer that the sanctions against Yugoslavia were the biggest obstacle in the way of establishing stable peace in the Balkans.

A statement released by the Socialist Party's department for international cooperation said Potezica had informed

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Mayer, a member of the German party's leadership, about the program orientations and current political activities of his party.

The talks also covered possible further steps in promoting cooperation between the two parties, "which have similar program orientations and share similar views on topical developments in the area of international affairs," the statement said.

Mayer is in Belgrade at the invitation of the Yugoslav left, taking part in an international meeting entitled "The Balkans: A European Region of Stability and Cooperation."

Swiss Firms Reportedly Violate Sanctions

95BA0287B Ljubljana REPUBLIKA in Slovene 20 Jun 95 p 7

[Article by Zvone Petek: "Flourishing Business With Serbia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zurich—At the end of the 1980's, Yugoslavia was quite a profitable economic partner for Switzerland. At that time Swiss enterprises were selling Belgrade industrial products, mechanical equipment, and chemical raw materials worth more than half a billion francs a year. Primarily Serbian enterprises, through which transactions flowed that were very profitable for the Swiss and also for the importers, were resident in Zurich. With the embargo, that previously profitable market was closed to Swiss exporters, and also the former Yugoslav enterprises and their offices in Zurich officially closed their doors or went underground under different names.

It was recently revealed that neutral Switzerland, and especially its entrepreneurs, are not paying too much attention to the economic embargo and that Switzerland is engaging in lively sales to Belgrade, directly, if possible, and otherwise through Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]. The warning came from Brussels, where the services that oversee observance of the embargo (seven Swiss customs officers are also monitoring the Yugoslav borders) warned Bern that Swiss enterprises had been involved in 186 violations of the embargo. This was confirmed by Bern, and the Sunday papers also published a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Trade that proceedings were under way against more than 70 enterprises that had violated the embargo and exported goods to Serbia and Montenegro. The entrepreneurs are risking strict penalties, up to one year in prison for the responsible official and up to half a million francs in fines for the enterprise. The export deals, however, are obviously profitable enough that even that risk is worth it. The violators include not only exporters, but also enterprises that are even importing from the rump Yugoslavia!

The Swiss, of course, have taken advantage of the exports to Serbia permitted by the UN, and profited from the sale of medicines, surgical instruments, and prostheses to the Serbs. Last year they doubled exports to almost 24 million francs. In many cases, however, medical equipment is not all that is involved. So that the embargo would not be too bitter for the Serbs, last year they were sold 800 metric tons of sweet Swiss chocolate, worth 2.6 million francs. Exports to Macedonia increased even more. The Foreign Trade Ministry cannot explain at all where a little country with less than 2 million inhabitants and a gross national product of 4 billion francs is getting that much money. The Macedonians have obviously started to smoke cigarettes en masse, because last year Swiss factories exported 23 million francs' worth to Skopje, 400 times as much as two years ago. The chemical giant Ciba sold Macedonia 11 million francs' worth of chemicals, and the export products also include laser technology and aircraft engines. In this case it is quite clear to the sellers that impoverished Macedonia cannot be the customer, but business is business.

Recently the stolen automobile business has also begun to flourish. Last year a full 3 million francs' worth were sold to Macedonia. The Swiss enterprises whose owners are Serbs and Macedonians working in Switzerland are extremely active in this. SONNTAGS ZEITUNG asked the former director of Intermerkur in Zurich, a Yugoslav-Swiss trading enterprise, through which a large part of the bilateral trade flowed, to explain the background and methods of violating the embargo, but was left without an answer. All sorts of things are happening between Zurich and Belgrade, but Bern is more or less closing its eyes. Powerful and influential banks like the Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft are obviously also involved in the prohibited transactions. Its director, von Schwarzenberg, flew to Belgrade at the end of last year and met with the director of Jugobanka; the Serbian media exploited this for propaganda and announced imminent lines of credit for Swiss exports to the rump Yugoslavia. It is obviously true that money does not stink and that the Swiss are not bothered too much by the fact that they are promoting the war in the former Yugoslavia. After all, Switzerland is not even a member of the UN.

Agriculture Official Discusses Wheat Harvest

LD2007163895 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1555 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 20 (TANJUG)—About 80 percent of the 700,000 hectares

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under wheat have been harvested in Yugoslavia so far, Federal Assistant Minister of Agriculture Milan Prostran told TANJUG Thursday.

It is estimated that a total of 2.5 million tonnes of wheat have been harvested.

The average yield stands at 3.7 tonnes per hectare. The highest, one of 4.1 tonnes per hectare, has been recorded in Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina and the lowest, of 3 tonnes per hectare, in the Republic of Montenegro.

The yield in the social sector ranges between 4 and 6 tonnes per hectare, and in the private sector between 3.5 and 5 tonnes per hectare.

The wheat harvest is expected to be completed in three to five days in the grain-growing parts of the country and in eight to 10 days in the mountainous regions and Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metohija.

Serbia

Milosevic: Bosnian Serbs 'Defending Themselves'

AU2007123095 Vienna NEWS in German 20 Jul 95 p 43

[Interview with President Slobodan Milosevic by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Secret Winner"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [NEWS] Can there be a peaceful solution without Milosevic?

[Milosevic] Maybe yes, maybe no. I am a completely normal human being, who can contribute a great deal to a peaceful policy, a policy that is honest and fair to all sides.

[NEWS] Why were you not able to stop Karadzic's policy of rape and concentration camps?

[Milosevic] When we first heard about it, Karadzic assured us that this was by no means true. We trusted him. Let me give you an example: A Muslim girl who became pregnant after a rape gave birth to a black child. There are no black Serbs.

[NEWS] The CIA claims that 90 percent of the war crimes have been committed by the Serbs.

[Milosevic] I do not pay attention to these figures. In this civil war, they are absolutely implausible.

[NEWS] Years ago, you advocated a greater Serbia.

[Milosevic] Bosnia-Herzegovina was illegally proclaimed and recognized as an independent state. There is no doubt that the conflict was started by the Muslims. And the Serbs are defending themselves. They are the better fighters. They have achieved military results. Yet we have always advocated peaceful solutions.

[NEWS] What about your responsibility for the civil war?

[Milosevic] I am in a difficult and unpleasant position. There is no doubt about that. However, I am very calm because we have been oriented toward peace for years, from the beginning of the crisis until now.

Serbian Parties Urge Peace Through Direct Talks

LD2007194795 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1847 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 20 (TANJUG)—Representatives of three parties in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia on Thursday warned that there was no military solution for the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and that the warring sides should return to the conference table.

The New democracy Party expects that the Contact Group meeting in London on Friday may prove to be a watershed in the revival of the peace process and the return of all Bosnia's warring sides to the conference table, Party Vice President Nebojsa Lekovic said on Thursday. The New Democracy Party is a minority partner in the Serbian Government.

New Democracy believes the lifting of the sanctions against Yugoslavia would be a key factor in the establishment of peace in the area of the former Yugoslavia, he said.

The opposition Serbian Radical Party on Thursday warned the world powers not to interfere in the conflict between Bosnian Serb and Muslim forces because the Serb side would be forced to respond in the event of open engagements on the side of the Muslims.

Serbian Radical Party Vice President Maja Gojkovic told a press conference that the West should accept the actual situation in the field, start practicing a realistic policy, and include representatives of the Bosnian Serb Republic in the peace talks.

She said the Contact Group plan was outdated and that armed conflicts would cease with the onset of talks on an exchange of territories between the warring sides.

Republican Committee Chairman Goran Latinovic of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia, an extraparliamentary party, said on Thursday in the western Serbian town of Valjevo that there would be no peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina until the three local peoples realized that it was necessary to give up the "good services" of the Western power wielders and to start direct negotiations.

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New Democracy Opposes Foreign Involvement

AU2007144995 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 20 Jul 95

[Report on news conference by New Democracy Vice President Nebojsa Lekovic by Marina Stojadinovic at the International Press Center in Belgrade; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Democracy has held a regular news conference in the International Press Center. Marina Stojadinovic reports:

New Democracy opposes the international community's involvement in the settlement of the Bosnian crisis. We expect the views of those who oppose the unilateral lifting of arms embargo to the Muslims to prevail in the United States. We believe that the Contact Group's meeting in London tomorrow will revive the peace process and bring the warring parties to the negotiating table, Nebojsa Lekovic, vice president of New Democracy told journalists.

He stressed that the lifting of the sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would be the crucial moment for establishing peace on the territory of the previous Yugoslavia. The international community must work on negotiations as the only possible solution to the crisis.

The United Nations should prevent Croatia from starting new aggression similar to that of western Slavonia. It has been noticed that this republic has started to mass troops on the border toward the Republic of Serb Krajina. Regarding internal politics, New Democracy strives for a realistic solution.

Replying to a journalist question on what New Democracy's view was on President Slobodan Milosevic's visit to Kosovo, Nebojsa Lekovic said that Kosovo is part of Serbia and that President Milosevic is paying a one-day working visit to a part of the Republic that he heads.

Montenegro

Government Rejects Serb Mobilization Request

AU2007173595 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Jul 95 p 16

[FONET report: "The Montenegrin Government Has Rejected the RS Request To Mobilize Refugees From Bosnia-Herzegovina"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Republic of Montenegro has rejected the request of the Serb Republic [RS] that Montenegro facilitate and help with the forced mobilization of men of Serb nationality who fled the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, MONTENA FAX reports, citing sources close to the government. The official request from Pale arrived at the same time it arrived in Belgrade. According to the same source, at the proposal of Prime Minister Djukanovic, the government unanimously rejected the request at one of its night sessions.

Last Thursday, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees registered the attempt by two Pale policemen to arrest and take away Rade Jovicevic, a Bosnian refugee who has been living and working in Podgorica for the last three years.

The agency reports that policemen from Pale and their cars have been seen recently, and that refugees fear that, despite the government's rejection of the request, attempts could be made to mobilize them by force.

Ruling DPS Supports Yugoslavia's Peace Policy

LD2007195495 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1850 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Podgorica, July 20 (TANJUG)—The main committee of the ruling political party in Montenegro, the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Thursday expressed its full support to the leaderships of Montenegro and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in their search for political solutions aimed at ending the war and establishing a just and lasting peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The lifting of anti-Yugoslav sanctions can contribute to a considerable extent to a definite settlement, it was noted Thursday at the DPS main committee session focusing on the current political situation and the efforts exerted by Yugoslavia and the international community to resolve the crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

Maintaining the sanctions is not only untenable, it can also directly endanger the forces and prospects of peace in a wider region, DPS leadership.

Kosovo

Milosevic Promises 'National Equality' at Rally

AU2007135695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1032 GMT on 20 July begins a live relay of an address by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to a rally in Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo.

After being introduced amid loud cheering and cries of "Slobo, Slobo!" Milosevic says:

"Citizens of Mitrovica, citizens of Zvecan, allow me first of all to thank you very much for this warm welcome in my own name and on behalf of my associates, and

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to tell you that we are all very happy to be among you today for several reasons, but I will only mention two for a start:

"First, because of the restart of our great Trepca metallurgy-chemical plant with [loud cheering] with potentials to expand and improve in the next months and years. I am sure that such a good program and such a promising and successful restart, after a whole three years, of this great plant will give a great contribution to the entire development of the south of Serbia and the country as a whole.

"The second thing that also makes me very pleased is that I have gotten the impression that your managements in Kosovo and Metohija [changes thought] that the arguments among the managements have declined a bit, and that with the reduction in quarreling they have started doing less damage than so far [loud cheering]. I hope that, in the name of unity, which we all need [loud cheering], you need to achieve that, it is true. In the name of this unity that we all need, and which is in the interest of all the citizens of Serbia, and particularly in Kosovo and Metohija, we should try to return Serbian disunity into legend in this very place where Serbian disunity entered legend, and replace it by unity of all the citizens that live in this region. [loud cheering, chanting] Cheers, cheers.

"I am sure that all of you here, in Mitrovica and in Zvecan, and throughout Serbia, will give your support to the policy of unifying forces to achieve the goals and results that will promote Serbia, that will lead it in a dignified way into a new century, and enable it to have a successful development to benefit all the citizens of Serbia. The thing we all need the most, and not only in Kosovo and Metohija, not only on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, but in the entire Balkans, is peace. Be assured, we will do everything to establish finally a lasting peace in the Balkans, and not any kind of peace, but just peace [loud cheering] as only just peace can be the basis for a successful development, only it can be a safe basis from which new conflicts and clashes will not emerge, conflicts that have throughout history impeded the development in this region, set it back for decades and centuries.

"I am certain that this is the view of all the citizens of Serbia, that peace is the greatest goal that has to be achieved in this region, and that then in peace we have the potential and the strength to direct all our resources toward the economic and cultural development, toward raising the living standards of the citizens, toward creating the conditions for a life of equality for all the nations and all the people in this region.

"I would like to tell you that I was particularly gladdened by one piece of information today. The Trepca management has issued information that many Albanians have started to return to work, and that thus they have denied loyalty to the separatist leadership, which has been terrorizing them and leading them to evil ways, and which, I would say, are increasingly losing their reputation with the Albanian masses."

At this point Belgrade loses reception of the live relay from Kosovska Mitrovica, and a studio announcer says that "technical problems are preventing the relay from continuing."

At 1046 GMT Belgrade Radio begins broadcasting a recording of Milosevic's speech, the first part of which is lost due to further technical problems. After approximately five minutes the recording becomes monitorable again, beginning with the last part of the live relay where Milosevic is saying "...losing their reputation with the Albanian masses."

The recording of the speech then continues with Milosevic saying:

"As for those abroad who have been publishing lies about us, maybe it is a good idea to repeat for them the information that I have been told today by Trepca director Novak Bjelic. Over 1,200 Albanians currently work in the metallurgy-chemical plant. I am very glad that this process has started in the positive direction, and that it is progressing because for this country, and not only in Kosovo and Metohija but for the entire country, there is no other way, no other policy but a policy of national equality. We will stick to the policy of national equality, and every citizen will be equal to us regardless of his nationality, his religion, profession, or political inclinations, since this is the state of all the citizens of Serbia, and it must remain so [loud cheering]. Only like that can it be prosperous, only like that can it be successful.

"We cannot forget the cruelty that one part of the Serb population in Kosovo was exposed to in the early 1980's, when the great exodus took place from this region, but just so that it does not happen again, we have to remember that such cruelty should not be repeated against anyone, not against the Serbs, not against the Albanians, not against the Turks, not against the Muslims, or any other nationality that lives in this region. The Serb people, being the largest and most populous in Serbia and the Balkans, have the greatest responsibility to take in and protect those who are weaker. This has always been the tradition of the Serb people. They have to, and I know that they want to offer the hand of cooperation, of understanding, equality, and coexistence to everyone. I am convinced that not a long

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time will pass before Kosovo, and the south of Serbia generally, becomes exactly such a region of mutual understanding, cooperation, and coexistence in progress and prosperity.

"This is why I want to say again: For this country there is no other policy but a policy of national equality. The policy of national equality will remain the main principle of our policy, and we will behave towards everyone accordingly. We will be ready to protect everyone who is endangered in this region, regardless of his national or any other belonging. I am convinced that all of you, and all the citizens of the south of Serbia and Serbia in general, will see your own future in such a policy, the future of your children and the future generations that are yet to be born in Serbia.

"I wish you all great success. I hope that this region and this town will develop successfully as it has the potential for that, as it has the privilege to have great natural resources, and great human potential in qualified and expert work. I am certain that you will put these potentials to good use, and in that I wish you all success. I wish great success to all the citizens of Mitrovica, of Zvecan, of Kosovo and Metohija. Thank you." [loud cheering, chanting]

Court Presses Charges of Illicit Arms Trading

LD1907120795 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1041 GMT 19 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Pec, 19 Jul (TANJUG)—The district public prosecutor in Pec today pressed charges of illicit arms trading against two groups of people: 11 people of Albanian and Muslim ethnic minority from Pec and the neighboring village of Vitomirica. [passage omitted]

All but one of the defendants are now in the district prison in Pec.

By the end of June, bodies of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the security center in Pec found on them more than 30 automatic rifles of foreign and Yugoslav origin, 20 hand grenades, 10 pistols, and a large quantity of ammunition and other explosive devices.

According to the charges, they received the weapons between 1991 and 1993 from Numan Balic, then chairman of the Party of Democratic Action for Kosovo and Metohija. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, Balic fled to Turkey. An investigation into the activities of 16 more persons who were involved in weapons smuggling organized by Balic is under way before the municipal court in Pec.

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